

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/109) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Seselja (L&CA 81) asked:

For that financial year that you were talking about, what was the median processing time?

Mr Vardos: I do not think I have a median. Sorry, I do not have that detail and I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014, the median processing time for a subclass 457 visa was 33 days.

For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013, the median processing time for a subclass 457 visa was 16 days.

The increase in the median processing time between 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 and 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014 was due an increase in subclass 457 visa applications lodged in the last quarter of the 2012/13 programme year.

The lodgement increase followed an announcement in February 2013 of reforms to the subclass 457 programme which included the application charge increasing from \$85 to \$330 from 1 July 2013.

This lodgement surge led to processing times increasing significantly which peaked at 63 days in September 2013. There has been an improving trend since that time.