

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/052) PROGRAMME –

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

The MRT-RRT completed 15,591 reviews in the period between July 1 2014 and 30 September 2014.

- a. Can you please provide an update on these figures?
- b. Can you please provide an update on processing times for applications from lodgement to decision?
- c. Have they increased since the last estimates in May 2014?
 - i. If so, why do you think processing times have increased?
 - ii. Has Ministerial Direction 57 [persons who arrived by vessel to be placed at the back of the processing queue] affected these processing times?
 - iii. If so, how?
- d. If not, what do you think has contributed to the reduction in processing times?

Answer:

(a) The MRT-RRT completed 6,098 reviews in the period 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014, not 15,591. The MRT-RRT completed 5,617 MRT and 2,410 RRT reviews in the period 1 July to 31 October 2014.

(b) At 31 October 2014 compared to 30 September 2014, the MRT average processing times increased slightly from 331 to 338 calendar days. The RRT average processing time increased from 158 to 165 calendar days.

(c) and (d) For both the MRT and RRT, average processing times vary from period to period depending on priorities given to particular caseloads and the cohorts of cases for which reviews are completed during a particular period. For 2014-15 the tribunals have had a focus on finalising older cases.