

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(52) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How many international students currently on Skilled - Graduate (subclass 485) visas are awaiting resolution of their application for permanent residency - General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa or Employer Nominated Scheme (ENS) visa? How long will it take to process these applications?

Answer.

As at 28 February 2011, the number of primary applicants for a GSM or ENS visa who had held a Skilled – Graduate (Subclass 485) visa as their last substantive visa and were still awaiting a final decision on their application was as follows:

GSM	10 158
ENS	139
Total	10 297

Processing times are dependent on a range of factors including, but not limited to:

- completeness of application
- how quickly applicants respond to requests to provide documentation
- medical complications
- police checks
- checks with third parties to verify claims made in an application.

Processing time estimates can also vary in response to changes in application rates, migration policy and priority processing arrangements.

Therefore it is not possible to provide definitive advice on individual processing times which may vary considerably from the published estimates.