

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(76) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How many onshore and offshore applications for General Skilled Migration are currently with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship?

How long are they taking to process? Onshore and offshore by post?

Answer:

There are a total of 73 093 applications on hand with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship at 28 February 2011. 35 435 of these are offshore applications, and 37 658 are onshore applications.

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
- health checks
- 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.

All General Skilled Migration applications from around the world are processed in Australia.