

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0420) Program 4.3: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

How long does the government expect that it will take, now that failed asylum seekers also have access to the RRT and the Courts, for their status to be finally resolved? Have the additional costs associated with this been factored into the forward estimates?

Answer:

Asylum seekers whose claims are not accepted by a delegated departmental officer already have access to either the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) or Independent Merits Review (IMR) and judicial review. The introduction of a single statutory process for all people seeking to engage protection obligations will ensure that all applicants will have their claims assessed in a single scheme. As is currently the case, the length of time for a final outcome will vary from case to case, depending on the complexity involved and the number and nature of reviews sought.

We anticipate the shift to a single assessment process, which will involve the phasing out of the Independent Protection Assessment Office in conjunction with the shifting of all merits review to the RRT, will be broadly budget neutral.