

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0482) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 64-65) asked:

Provide the figures showing the average processing time from arrival to visa grant for younger applicants (zero to 17).

Answer:

As at 31 January 2012, the average processing times for Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) aged zero to 17 from arrival to visa grant for program year 2011-12 was 258 days. This figure includes IMAs who were granted a protection visa after review.

Table 1. Average processing times from arrival to visa grant by Age

| Age | Jul 2008 to Jun 2009 | Jul 2009 to Jun 2010 | Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 | July 2011 to January 2012 |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 - 17 years | 95 days | 95 days | 274 days | 258 days |
| 18 - 25 years | 99 days | 115 days | 301 days | 342 days |
| 26 - 35 years | 109 days | 127 days | 310 days | 368 days |
| 36+ years | 109 days | 109 days | 307 days | 400 days |

As at 31 January 2012, the average processing times for IMAs aged zero to 17 from screening in to primary protection decision for program year 2011-12 was 88 days.

Table 2. Average processing times from screening in to primary decision by Age

| Age | Jul 2008 to Jun 2009 | Jul 2009 to Jun 2010 | Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 | July 2011 to December 2011 |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 - 17 years | * | 41 days | 129 days | 88 days |
| 18 - 25 years | * | 56 days | 125 days | 94 days |
| 26 - 35 years | * | 63 days | 125 days | 95 days |
| 36+ years | * | 53 days | 135 days | 94 days |

*No data is available for 2008/2009 financial year

Priority is given to the most vulnerable clients, including families, minors and sufferers of torture or trauma.