

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0151) PROGRAM – Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

I refer to the answer given to SE12/0005 which states “In 2012-13 year to 31 October 2012, the longest time taken for completion of an RRT case decided within that period was 902 days from receipt of the Departmental documents”. Why did it take so long to complete?

Answer:

For the case referred to, the reasons recorded in the MRT-RRT’s case management system were:

- Tribunal responsibility – further investigations, research or opinions sought by tribunal
- Compliance with statutory procedural requirements – applicant granted time to provide further information, and
- Applicant/Adviser related – post hearing material received from applicant.

The hearing for the case had to be rescheduled twice, in one instance because of the difficulty of getting an appropriate interpreter. There were also delays in obtaining submissions and country advice on the case, and the member to whom the case was constituted was unavailable to attend to the case for periods during parts of 2011 because of the illness of a close family member interstate. However it would not generally take this amount of time to finalise a RRT case.