

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(AE13/0496) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Miscellaneous re outcome 1 - When will guidelines be published on the Private Sponsorship program? Do guidelines for Private Sponsorship exist? Can the Department please provide an update on the processing time for a Carer visa (both offshore/onshore)? Please break it down into the average time for the last year and two years preceding, as well as the longest and the shortest processing times.

*Answer:*

Guidelines on the private sponsorship program, formally known as the Community Proposal Pilot, are currently being developed.

The Carer visa has been capped by instrument under section 85 of the Migration Act 1958 since January 2011. Since that time, according to Ministerial Direction No. 49, applications for both Subclasses 116 and 836 are placed into a Global queue on the date they are assessed as meeting the core criteria, then released in date order for final processing, as visa places become available. The table below shows the processing times for cases granted or refused in each program year.

Table 1: Carer visa – Processing times (days)

<b>Migration Program Year</b>	<b>Average Processing time</b>	<b>Shortest processing time</b>	<b>Longest processing time</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>			
Subclass 116	468	7	1935
Subclass 836	579	0	2121
<b>2010-2011</b>			
Subclass 116	422	1	1652
Subclass 836	414	0	1739
<b>2009-2010</b>			
Subclass 116	309	13	1458
Subclass 836	397	0	1785

- Subclass 116: Carer visa (outside Australia)
- Subclass 836: Carer visa (in Australia)