

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(36) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Crossin (L&CA 48) asked:

Can you tell me the median processing time for visa categories relating to skilled migrants for 06-07 as compared to 04-05 for onshore and offshore? How about labour agreements, employer nominations, regional sponsored migration, general skilled migration and 457 long stay business visas?

Answer:

As at 30 May 2007, the median processing times for skill stream applications were 9.5 months (offshore) and 4.6 months (onshore). For labour agreement applications the processing times were 2.1 months (offshore) and 2.9 months (onshore). For employer nominated applications the processing times were 1.9 months (offshore) and 3 months (onshore). Regional sponsored visa processing times were 2.7 months (offshore) and 3.4 months (onshore).

By comparison, processing times for 2004-05 for skill stream applications were 10.4 months (offshore) and 4 months (onshore). For labour agreement applications the processing times were 1.6 months offshore and 2.1 months onshore. Employer nominated applications processing times were 2.2 months (offshore) and 2.5 months (onshore). Regional sponsored application processing times were 2.1 months for offshore and 2.5 months onshore.

At 31 March 2007, the median processing time for 457 long stay business visa applications from high risk countries was 35 days (onshore) and 45 days (offshore) compared with 29 and 33 days respectively in 2004-05. For applications from low risk countries the median processing times were 31 days (onshore) and 32 days (offshore) compared with 18 and 25 days respectively in 2004-05.