

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(67) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Nettle (L&CA 82) asked:

How many further protection visa applications have been processed since the 90-day limit was introduced and what proportion of those since the 90-day limit have not been able to be resolved within 90 days?

*Answer:*

The 90 day processing timeframe was announced on 17 June 2005. Reporting against the new timeframe commenced from 1 July 2005. The announcement covered further Protection visa applications already on hand and available for processing which were to be decided by 31 October 2005, and other Protection visa applications which were to be decided within 90 days.

By 31 October 2005 the Department had finalised all of the 3400 on hand further Protection visa applications within its power.

DIAC systems as at 25 May 2007 indicate that for other further Protection visa applications decided since 1 July 2005, 500 (73%) were decided within 90 days and 186 (27%) were decided after 90 days, most of the latter were delayed for reasons outside the Department's control.