

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(30) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ellison (L&CA 65-66) asked:

- (1) How many more staff since March 2008 have been working on clearing the backlog of 457 visa applications?
- (2) What hours of overtime have been worked in relation to this?
- (3) How many visas have been processed since this initiative commenced?

Answer:

- (1) Since March 2008, approximately 37 additional staff have been working for various periods on clearing the backlog of 457 visa applications. This is in addition to the 225 staff working on 457 visa applications reported during the hearing (L&CA 65).
- (2) 3178 hours of overtime have been worked on clearing the backlog of 457 visa applications.
- (3) This initiative commenced at the end of March 2008. In the period from 31 March to 31 May, 15 269 subclass 457 cases were finalised. This included 12 919 cases being "approved", 649 cases "refused" and 1710 cases "otherwise finalised".

The number of 457 visas issued, including primary and secondary applicants, during this period was 23 458.

This resulted in the number of cases on hand falling 32 percent from 14 241 as at 31 March to 9681 at 31 May 2008.