

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 - 28 May 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(63) Program : MRT-RRT

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Timeliness of appeals

(1) Are there any areas where the average time for resolution of Tribunals is taking longer (i.e. worse) this year, compared to last year? E.g. student visas appeals, spouse visa appeals or 457 visa appeals.

(2) Are there any Protection Visa claims from any particular source countries which are taking longer for the RRT to resolve this year compared to last year?

Answer:

(1) There has been an increase in average processing times this financial year in relation to the following MRT case categories:

- Student refusal cases (increase of 65 calendar days);
- Temporary business refusal cases (increase of 34 calendar days);
- Partner refusal cases (increase of 44 calendar days); and
- Sponsor approval refusal cases (increase of 10 calendar days).

(2) The average processing time from lodgement to decision for RRT cases this financial year to 31 May 2009 has remained the same as last financial year at 86 days.

There was an increase to 31 May 2009 as compared with 2007-08 in average processing times in relation to:

- China (increase of 4 calendar days);
- India (increase of 2 calendar days);
- Indonesia (increase of 5 calendar days);
- Malaysia (increase of 4 calendar days); and
- Pakistan (increase of 19 calendar days).