

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0098) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How does this compare to the KPIs for processing times?

Answer:

In 2009-10, 82.3 per cent of Subclass 457 visa applications were finalised within the service standards* of the Subclass 457 Program.

In 2009-2010, the median processing time for a Subclass 457 visa decided under a Labour Agreement was 37 calendar days, while the median processing time for visas decided under the standard 457 visa program was 21 calendar days.

As at 31 May 2011, the median processing time for a Subclass 457 visa decided under a Labour Agreement was 18 calendar days, and the median processing time for visas decided under the standard 457 visa program was 23 calendar days. The current median processing times are well within service standards for the program.

Service Standards*	
Two months	Low risk countries (nationals from countries which issue ETA eligible passports)
Three months	High risk countries (those that are not ETA eligible)