

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0102) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

On 27 January 2011 the government announced a five-day turnaround for applications for 457 visas in response to demand for labour on infrastructure projects. How many have been issued to date?

Answer:

There is no arrangement for a five-day turnaround for visa applications in relation to infrastructure projects.

On 27 January 2011, the Prime Minister announced that there would be priority processing of decision-ready Subclass 457 visa applications for businesses assisting with flood reconstruction in Queensland.

At 31 May 2011, 30 visas had been granted under these arrangements.