

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0104) 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. What is the average processing time?

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.

The average processing time for decision-ready applications afforded this priority processing is 1.5 days.