

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0201) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Boyce asked:

On the 22nd of March 2011 a document was tabled entitled, "Protection Visa Processing taking more than 90 days for the reporting period 1/7/10 to 31/10/10".

During the reporting period 2535 applications were considered. 57 per cent were decided within 90 days, a drop in performance from the previous reporting period when the clearance rate was 65 per cent. In the report tabled on March 23 this year it says that there was an increase and I quote, "in the number of undecided and on hand over 90 days from 1147 to 1561."

Your figures would claim that 61 per cent of cases were not resolved within 90 days, yet the Department claims that only 43 per cent of cases were not resolved within the statutory requirement of 90 days.

Can you please explain this apparent contradiction in the information provided?

Answer:

The figure of 57 per cent represents the percentage of 2535 decisions during the period that were made within 90 days.

The figure of 61 per cent cited in the question appears to have been calculated by dividing 1561 (the number of undecided cases over 90 days at the end of the reporting period) by 2535 (the number of decisions during the period). This ratio represents a concept that is different to the percentage of decisions made within 90 days. Accordingly, there is no contradiction in the information provided.