

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0250) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

For which visas and subclasses are Processing Time service standards currently not being met? What is the reason for the delays in these cases?

Answer:

Visa subclasses that did not meet service standard processing times for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 April 2013 were

Temporary Visas Not Meeting Service Standard	Permanent Visas Not Meeting Service Standard
Investor Retirement Retirement Foreign Government Agency Domestic Worker (Temporary) (Diplomatic or Consular and Executive) Religious Worker Student Medical Treatment (Long Stay) Working Holiday	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme Employee Nomination Scheme Skilled Sponsored (Migrant) Child and Child Adoption (Permanent) Orphan Relative (Permanent) Partner (Temporary) New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary)

A number of Family Migration program subclasses are not meeting service standards, due primarily to demand for places exceeding annual planning levels. Some applicants do, therefore, need to wait for places to become available.

Skilled Migration program subclasses that are not meeting standards are in a group of visas subclasses that ceased taking lodgments on 31 December 2012, and were replaced with new visa subclasses and categories. This is also the case for the majority of the Temporary Resident visas not meeting service standards.

Student visa categories are not meeting service standards due to a number of factors, including the large number of incomplete applications being lodged and the high seasonal workload which places significant strain on available resources. January to March is one of the peak lodgment periods for Student visas.

The Working Holiday category is not meeting service standards due to increased integrity checking of the second Working Holiday visa application, lodged by holders of this visa who make a subsequent Working Holiday visa application in Australia.