

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0251) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

For those that aren't being met, what is the actual current processing time for each visa? What is the reason for this delay? How does these compare with DIAC's processing time service standards advised on their website?

Answer:

The table below provides processing times and relevant service standards for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 April 2013 for all visa subclasses that did not meet service standards.

Service standards may be affected by a range of factors including planning levels for specific visa subclasses, seasonal peaks, the completeness of applications and the need to undertake additional checks.

A number of Family Migration program subclasses are not meeting service standard, 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 standard.

Student visa categories are not meeting service standards due to a number of factors, including the 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 the time taken for increased integrity checking of the second Working Holiday Visa applications.

Visa Subclass and Name	Processing Times Service Standards (within which 75% of applications are to be finalised)	2012-13 to 30 April 2013	
		% finalised within service standard	Days to finalise 75% of cases
119 Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme**	Low risk: 5 months High risk: 8 months	55.1	278
121 Employee Nomination Scheme**	Low risk: 5 months High risk: 8 months	58.9	252
176 Skilled Sponsored (Migrant)**	18 months	73.8	579
856 Employee Nomination Scheme**	Low risk: 5 months High risk: 8 months	63.9	232
857 Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme**	Low risk: 5 months High risk: 8 months	47.2	286
102 Child- Adoption (Permanent)	Onshore: Low risk: 7 months High risk: 8 months Offshore: Low risk:3 months High risk: 14 months	70.5	198
117 Orphan Relative (Permanent)	Onshore: Low risk: 7 months High risk: 8 months Offshore: Low risk:3 months High risk: 14 months	48.6	714
461 New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary)	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	42.0	129
802 Child Permanent	Onshore: Low risk: 7 months High risk: 8 months Offshore: Low risk:3 months High risk: 14 months	56.8	356
820 Partner Temporary	Onshore: Low risk: 6 months High risk: 8 months Offshore: Low risk: 5 months High risk: 12 months	50.7	253
405 Investor Retirement	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	3.0%	269
410 Retirement	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	74.0%	63
415 Foreign Government Agency**	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	66.2%	92
426 Domestic Worker (Temporary) - Diplomatic or Consular**	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	67.6%	113
427 Domestic Worker (Temporary) - Executive**	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	14.3%	132
428 Religious Worker**	Low risk: 2 months High risk: 3 months	72.6%	84
570 Independent ELICOS	Assessment Level 1: 14 days (onshore and offshore) Assessment Level 2: 14 days (onshore) Assessment Level 2: 21 days (offshore) Assessment Level 3/4: 1 month (onshore) Assessment Level 3/4: 3 months (offshore)	63.8%	27
571 Schools Sector		68.6%	34
572 Vocational Education and Training Sector		55.6%	41
573 Higher Education Sector		56.9%	25
574 Postgraduate Research Sector		38.6%	30
575 Non-Award Sector		65.6%	12
576 AusAID or Defence Sponsored		62.7%	34
685 Medical Treatment (Long Stay)**	Onshore: Low risk: 1 week High risk: 1 week Offshore: Low risk 1 week High risk: 1.5 months	35.9%	66
417 Working Holiday	Initial: 6 days Extension: 21 days	73.2%	12

Footnote: The terms 'Low risk' and 'High risk' show whether passport holders are eligible to apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). **Low risk** applies to nationals from countries which issue ETA eligible passports. **High risk** countries are those which are not ETA eligible.