

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0255) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What impact have the Streamlined Visa Processing measures introduced on 24 March 2012 had on the processing times for Student Visas? Have processing times been reduced since 24 March 2012? By how many days?

Answer:

Since the introduction of Streamlined Visa Processing arrangements on 24 March 2012, there has been a reduction in the average processing time for Student visa subclasses that are eligible for streamlined processing; that is, the Higher Education (Subclass 573), Postgraduate Research (Subclass 574) and Non Award (Subclass 575) Student visas.

Based on the first 12 months of operation from 24 March 2012 to 23 March 2013, the average processing time for these subclasses was 16 calendar days. This represents a reduction of six calendar days when compared with the same period last year, from 24 March 2011 to 23 March 2012, where the average processing time was 22 calendar days.