

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(175) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Bartlett asked:

What is the average processing time for protection refugee and humanitarian visas offshore?

Answer:

In 2005-06, the average processing time for finalising refugee and humanitarian visa applications, including grants, refusals and otherwise finalised applications, was 26 weeks. The average processing time for applications where the visa was granted was 50 weeks.

The Portfolio Budget Statement standard requires 75% of applications be finalised within 12 months. In 2005-06, 88 percent of applications, including those deemed to be invalid, were finalised within 12 months.