

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(235) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

What is the average time taken between a negative decision on appeal or uncontested at the primary level and an involuntary or voluntary return?

Answer:

A range of factors impact on the length of time between a negative decision and a removal including: the issuing of travel documents and obtaining agreement from country of return; confirmation of identity for removal purposes; flight availability; finalisation of health assessments; pre-removal clearances and post-arrival care needs.

As an example, for irregular maritime arrivals, the average time taken between a negative decision on appeal or uncontested at the primary level and an involuntary or voluntary removal is currently 26 days (the majority are voluntary removals).