

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(355) Program 3.1: Border Management**

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the answer given to Question on Notice 93 asked at the Budget Estimates hearing on 27 May 2010, regarding the current length of time taken for ASIO to make security assessments of offshore entry persons. ASIO advised DIAC that the average time taken to complete security assessments of IMA's is 35 days from receipt of the referral from DIAC.

(a) Is 35 days still the average time taken by ASIO to complete security assessments of IMA's?

(b) How does this figure compare with the average processing time over the last 10 financial years?

*Answer:*

As these are matters for ASIO, these responses have been drafted in consultation with ASIO.

(a) In the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 November 2010, 746 security assessments in respect of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) were finalised by ASIO in an average of 108 days. These assessments included cases referred to ASIO for assessment prior to 1 July 2010.

(b) Statistics for the average processing times of security assessments in respect of IMAs prior to FY2008-09 are not readily accessible. However, for FY2008-09, the average processing time was 25 days, and for FY2009-10, the average processing time was 39 days.

We note that security assessments in respect of IMAs that are finalised during a financial year are likely to include cases referred to ASIO prior to that financial year.