

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0147) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Furner (L&CA 112) asked:

In relation to the 457 processing centre in Brisbane: a) How many visas have been processed since the centre commenced operation? b) What effect has the new centre had on processing times? c) What sort of improvements have occurred subject to the centre coming into operation?

Answer:

3930 visa applications (including 2074 primary applications) have been finalised to 30 October 2011, as well as 565 sponsorships and 2933 nominations.

The median time to finalise primary visa applications has decreased from 25 days in July 2011 to 19 days in October 2011. The proportion of cases finalised within 2 weeks has increased from 31.5% in July 2011 to 39.5% in October 2011. This is a direct result of having additional trained staff. Applications which are decision ready are generally decided the day they are allocated.

The 457 Temporary Business Entry processing network for applications relating to Australian based sponsors is now managed centrally, providing the capacity for ongoing business process improvement, quality assurance, consistency and efficiency. The Brisbane Centre of Excellence is part of this network.