

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0152) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

457 visas and skilled migration: What is the average processing time for those 457 visas subject to Labour Agreements and those which are not? How does this compare to the KPIs for processing times?

Answer:

The Department reports processing times for visa subclass 457 applications as the median rather than the average.

The median processing time for primary visa applications associated with a labour agreement is 14 days for the 2011/2012 year to date, whilst the median timeframe for primary visa applications under standard business sponsorship for the same time period is 22 days.

Service standards for finalising 457 visa applications are 2 months for those applicants coming from low risk countries (where Electronic Travel Authority is available) and 3 months for those coming from high risk countries (non ETA) so both timeframes are well within service standards.