

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(SE11/0159) Program 1.1 Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

Processing times – in all 457 visa processing locations: What is the average processing time for subclass 457 visas granted under a Labour Agreement compared to those granted under a standard business sponsorship for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011?

*Answer:*

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

The median processing time for subclass 457 visas granted under a Labour Agreement in 2009-2010 was 45 days, and in 2010-2011 was 19 days.

The median processing time for subclass 457 visas granted under a standard business sponsorship in 2009-2010 was 21 days and for 2010-2011 was 23 days.