

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 17 OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (SE11/0160) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Processing times – in all 457 visa processing locations: What is the average processing time for onshore and offshore applications for General Skilled Migration for the last five financial years?

*Answer:*

It should be noted that General Skilled Migration (GSM) is a separate program to subclass 457 Temporary Business.

Processing for GSM applications is now consolidated in Adelaide and Brisbane. The caseload composition is different in each location with Brisbane processing only applications lodged online in Australia and Adelaide processing onshore paper applications and all offshore lodgements.

Average processing times are affected by Priority Processing which determines the processing order applied to skilled migration applications. More information about this is available on the Department's website at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/about/charters/client-services-charter/visas/8.0.htm>

Average processing times are as follows:

#### **GSM Average Processing Time (Days) for Applications Lodged Onshore**

Office	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012 to 31/10/11
Adelaide	183	247	338	349	363	391
Brisbane		41	237	214	294	338

#### **GSM Average Processing Time (Days) for Applications Lodged Offshore**

Office	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012 to 31/10/11
Adelaide	343	425	458	532	577	489