

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0367) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

APEC Business Travel Card: What is the current timeframe for (i) a new application to be assessed and approved/denied and (ii) a renewal application to be assessed and approved/denied?

Answer:

The current average processing time for a new application, whether approved or denied, is 28 days.

The current average processing time for a renewal of an ABTC, whether approved or denied, is also 28 days.

It should be noted however that the above average processing times relate to the average time for DIAC to assess Australian ABTC applications. An ABTC is not generally issued to an applicant until all other APEC economies have also made a decision regarding visa pre-clearance to that economy. This process generally takes some months to complete with the average time currently taking up to six months.