

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0564) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Bridging visas: What was the average processing time for IMAs during the year to date, by age, gender and country of origin?

Answer:

As at cob 19 November 2012:

There are many factors that can decrease or increase the overall period of time that elapses between arrival and any decision by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to exercise his discretionary, non-delegable, non-compellable powers to grant a bridging visa. For example, these could include whether the person:

- cooperated with efforts to establish their identity or other processing that is generally a precursor to any considerations for a bridging visa;
- was receiving medical treatment that meant they were temporarily unavailable for processing of a bridging visa;
- was part of a defined group that the minister had requested be referred as a priority for consideration, such as a vulnerable person or people who had been in detention for the longest period;
- had circumstances which changed during their period of immigration detention; and
- had accommodation support in the community.

Given the large range of factors that can impact on time of visa grant, meaningful comparisons are not able to be made on an age, gender or citizenship basis.