

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE13/0112) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management**

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 36) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Larkins, after somebody has been deemed to be screened out, at what point does that decision go to the reviewer for a decision?

Ms Larkins: Straight away.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Within the hour, the day—

Ms Larkins: Often it is straight away. As soon as those decisions are written up in a form that can be considered by the reviewer, that is sent to them.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What is the time frame in getting the reviewer's decision?

Ms Larkins: As I said, we do not have an average time. We are trying to do this quite quickly. Review by the senior officer is prioritised and it happens quite quickly.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How quick is quickly?

Ms Larkins: I do not have average data. I cannot answer that question.

*Answer:*

Usually interviewing officers will refer a screen out finding to a senior officer of the Department on the same day that the person has had their enhanced screening interview. There may be operational considerations that prioritise or delay a particular case.