QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 17 April 2018

HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018

Senator WATT: Thanks. I realise this might be more a matter for the immigration department, but do you know on average how long migrants are waiting in Australia before they are granted a permanent visa?
Ms Davis: That's a matter for Home Affairs. We understand that around 50 per cent of their permanent visa grants are made for people onshore. As to the waiting time, that's something for Home Affairs.

Answer:

Processing times vary from month to month and are impacted by a range of factors including the completeness of the application, how promptly applicants respond to any additional information requests from the Department of Home Affairs and the complexity of assessments not limited to but including health, character and national security requirements. In addition, the annual Migration Program that is set by Government places a ceiling on the number of permanent visas that can be finalised in each program year.

Processing times are calculated on the time it takes for all applications in a subclass to be finalised in the previous month at the 75th and 90th percentile points. This means two processing times are displayed, indicating how long it took to finalise both 75 and 90 per cent of applications submitted globally. The website is updated each month providing an indicative timeframe for processing applications.

The table provided at Attachment A details published processing times for permanent visas as at 28 February 2018. Reporting on processing times does not currently differentiate between applicants that apply offshore and those that apply in Australia.

This information is also publicly available on the Department of Home Affairs website at the following path: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards/global-visa-citizenship-processing-times.

Permanent Visa Subclass	75th percentile processing time (MONTHS)	90th percentile processing time (MONTHS)
In MONTHS	Feb 18	Feb 18
100 Partner (Permanent)	19	29
101 Child	10	14
143 Contributory Parent (Permanent)	38	40
173 Contributory Parent (Temporary)	37	39
186 Employer Nomination Scheme (Direct Entry)	8	13
186 Employer Nomination Scheme (Transition)	8	11
187 Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (Direct Entry)	17	20
187 Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (Transition)	9	13
188 Business Innovation and Investment (Business innovation)	14	18
189 Skilled - Independent (Points-Tested)	8	10
190 Skilled - Nominated	8	11
300 Prospective Spouse	11	15
309 Partner (Provisional)	10	13
801 Partner (Permanent)	18	23
802 Child	12	14
820 Partner (Temporary)	17	24
887 Skilled - Regional	8	10