

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 04 May 2018

HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### QoN/002 - Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018 -

Asked:

1. How many migrants are currently in Australia, waiting for an application for Permanent Residency to be considered?
2. Of those, how many would be affected by the measures in this Bill?
3. Of those affected by the measures in this Bill, how many are individuals and how many are families?
4. Are you able to provide the number of children in those families?
5. What is the average and median amount of time that migrants in Australia are waiting before the Department is able to respond to their application for Permanent Residency? Please provide this broken down by visa type.
6. For each type of visa affected by the changes in this Bill, what is the average length of time between someone gaining permanent residency and being conferred Australian Citizenship?

Answer:

1. The table below outlines the number of permanent (skilled, family, child and special eligibility) visa applications on hand at 11/05/2018 where the applicant was in Australia at time of lodgement.

Visa Category	Total
Child	887
Family	86,498
Skilled	67,010
Special Eligibility	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,427</b>

*Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2018 (RFI 21059.01)*

2. It is not possible to indicate the number of people in the above table who would be granted a relevant permanent resident visa (or certain temporary visas) on or after 1 July 2018 and be affected by this Bill.
3. See answer to question 2.
4. See answer to question 2.

5. The Department of Home Affairs website includes information on processing times by visa category and for the conferral of Australian citizenship.  
See: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards/global-visa-citizenship-processing-times>
6. The below table provides the average length of time from arrival/grant date on first permanent or provisional visa to the date of acquisition of Australian Citizenship by visa category and visa type of the last substantive visa held before citizenship where the acquisition date was in 2017-18 to 30 April 2018.

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2018 (RFI 21033.01)

Visa Category	Visa Type	Average Time (Years)	Average Time (Months)
Family	Other Family	6.9	82.6
	Parent	6.5	78.0
	Partner	7.1	84.9
Skilled	Business Innovation & Investment	8.9	106.7
	Distinguished Talent	5.1	61.6
	Employer Sponsored	3.8	45.6
	Skilled Independent	5.6	66.9
	Skilled Regional	6.1	73.0
	State/Territory Nominated	3.8	45.1
<b>Average</b>		<b>5.2</b>	<b>63.0</b>

Note 1: Where the visa holder was in Australia at the time of the initial visa grant, the visa grant date has been used. Where the visa holder was outside Australia at the time of the initial visa grant, the date of first arrival on the initial visa has been used to calculate the period.

Note 2: The 'Visa Category' and 'Visa Type' are based on the last permanent or provisional visa held prior to Australian Citizenship being acquired.

Note 3: Where a visa holder has entered the migration process more than once, only the most recent process has been included in the calculation.

Note 4: 66,838 people acquired Australian Citizenship between 1 July 2017 and 30 April 2018. Of this group, 60,266 were matched to a permanent or provisional visa grant. As data on visa grants is only available from around July 1990, the missing grants may have been made to clients prior to that time. Also, there may be children born in Australia to permanent visa holders after the grant of the permanent visa where that child may not have been granted a visa prior to citizenship application.