

Question on notice no. 467

Portfolio question number: AE21-467

2020-21 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 22 March 2021—

What is the longest period of time from TPV and SHEV visa application lodgement to being finally determined, and what is the average?

a. Please breakdown by subclass?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
22 MARCH 2021**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

AE21-467 - Temporary Protection visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise visas (SHEVs) - processing timeframes

Senator Nick McKim asked:

What is the longest period of time from TPV and SHEV visa application lodgement to being finally determined, and what is the average?

a. Please breakdown by subclass?

Answer:

Determining an application as finally determined is dependent on merits review processing by an independent review body external to the Department as well as a combination of factors usually assessed individually. It is not possible to answer the question without a manual interrogation of each record, which would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.

The Department's average processing times for TPV and SHEV applications are:

Average processing times*

Average days to primary decisions for TPV and SHEV applications				
Visa subclass	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at 31 January 2021)
TPV (subclass 785)	709	1027	1,285 [#]	1,215 [#]
SHEV (subclass 790)	574	904	1,263 [#]	1,197 [#]

*The average processing time is the average number of days the protection visa application is received by the Department and date of primary decision to grant or to refuse to grant the visa. The vast majority of TPV/SHEV applications were lodged by the IMA Legacy Caseload before the 1 October 2017 deadline.

[#]Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were changes to some in-person aspects of protection visa processing which contributed to increased processing times.