

Question on notice no. 162

Portfolio question number: AE22-162

2021-22 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 14 February 2022

—

Since commencement, what is the average processing time for processing a TPV and SHEV visa application from lodgment to being finally determined (broken down by subclass) ?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
 ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
 14 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
 Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: IMA Offshore Management

AE22-162 - TPV and SHEV visas - by subclass

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Since commencement, what is the average processing time for processing a TPV and SHEV visa application from lodgment to being finally determined (broken down 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 Temporary Protection (subclass 785) visa and Safe Haven Enterprise (subclass 790) visa applications are:

Average processing times in days*

Average days to primary decisions for TPV and SHEV applications					
Visa subclass	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (as at 31 January 2022)
TPV (subclass 785)	709	1,027	1,285 [#]	1,269 [#]	1,667
SHEV (subclass 790)	574	904	1,263 [#]	1,296 [#]	1,719 [#]

*The average processing time is the average number of days since the protection visa application is received by the Department and date of primary decision to grant or to refuse to grant the visa. The processing of TPV and SHEV applications involve a number of actions including validity assessment, scheduling and conducting an interview (where required), assessing protection obligations and identity, which in some cases can be a particularly complex assessment, particularly where there are character and security considerations. For applicants who are found to be refugees or owed complimentary protection, health, character and security checks need to be undertaken prior to grant.

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