

**Question on notice no. 47**

**Portfolio question number: BE22-047**

**2022-23 Budget estimates**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio**

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Department of Home Affairs on 19 April 2022—

With 7,204 applications for 300 and 309s waiting to be processed (as at 31 December 2021) , how long will it take the Department to clear the backlog of partner visa applications for Afghan nationals, particularly for those applications lodged before 2019?

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
BUDGET ESTIMATES  
MARCH / APRIL 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 2.2: Visas**

**BE22-047 - Partner Visa Applicants (Subclass 300 and 309) in Afghanistan -  
Processing Time**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

With 7,204 applications for 300 and 309s waiting to be processed (as at 31 December 2021), how long will it take the Department to clear the backlog of partner visa applications for Afghan nationals, particularly for those applications lodged before 2019?

*Answer:*

The time taken to process Partner and Family visa applications can vary according to the individual circumstances of each case. Assessments of a permanent visa often cannot be completed quickly, due to the need to consider the visa application against a range of criteria in migration legislation.

In 2021-22, as at 31 March 2022, a total of 1,034 Partner (subclass 309) and Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visa applications have been granted to Afghan nationals (including primary and secondary applicants). This is an increase of over 200 per cent compared to the 343 Partner (subclasses 300 and 309) visas granted to Afghan nationals during the same period in 2020-21.

The Department is on track to deliver approximately 1,500 Family visa grants to Afghan nationals in 2021-22, towards the estimated 5,000 grants to be provided over the next four years.