

Question on notice no. 170

Portfolio question number: OBE22-170

2022-23 Budget estimates October and November

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 18 November 2022

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What is the current backlog of applications for each subclass of family stream visas, and estimated processing times for each subclass?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.2: Visas

OBE22-170 - Family Reunion Visas - Backlog

Senator Nick McKim asked:

What is the current backlog of applications for each subclass of family stream visas, and estimated processing times for each subclass?

Answer:

Partner and Child programs

Table 1 details the number of on-hand Partner and Child visa applications as at 31 October 2022 as well as median processing times, which reflect the age of applications finalised in October 2022.

Table 1: On-hand visa applications and median processing time: Partner and Child

Visa Type	Visa Subclass	Applications onhand ¹ (as at 31/10/2022)	Processing Times (Median)
First stage Partner and Prospective Marriage²	309 Partner (Provisional)	23,287*	11 months
	820 Partner	31,177	9 months
	300 Prospective Marriage	3,654	8 months
	First stage Partner total	58,118	
Second stage Partner²	100 Partner	40,636 (19,614 active ³)	13 months
	801 Partner	75,917 (27,251 active ³)	8 months
	Second stage Partner total	116,553 (46,865 active³)	
Child	101 Child	2,653	10 months
	102 Adoption	55	9 months
	445 Dependent Child	336	6 months
	802 Child	1,147	9 months
	117 Orphan Relative	1,267	31 months
	837 Orphan Relative	7	Processing times unavailable ⁴
	Child Total	5,465	

Other Family and Parent programs

Parent and Other Family visas are subject to capping and queuing arrangements. The Department processes Parent and Other Family applications in date order and within annual caps.

As at 31 October 2022, the Department has released for final processing:

- Contributory Parent visa applications with a queue date up to December 2016
- Parent visa applications with a queue date up to February 2011
- Aged Parent visa applications with a queue date up to December 2012
- Remaining Relative visa applications with a queue date of up to 31 July 2012
- Aged Dependent Relative visa applications with a queue date up to 31 July 2012
- Carer visa applications with a queue date up to 26 July 2018.

The Department provides the following information regarding processing time estimates on its website (as at 31 October 2022).

- Contributory Parent visa (subclasses 143, and 864) applications lodged that meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take at least 74 months to be released for final processing.
- New Parent (subclass 103) and Aged Parent (subclass 804) visa applications lodged that meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take at least 30 years for final processing.
- Carer visa applications that meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take approximately 7 years to be released for final processing.
- Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visa applications that meet the criteria to be queued are likely to take approximately 50 years.

These estimates are determined using the number of visa applications onhand and are based on current annual planning levels.

Table 2 details the number of on-hand Parent and Other Family visa applications as at 31 October 2022.

Table 2: On-hand visa applications: Parent and Other Family

Visa Type	Visa Subclass	Applications onhand ¹ (as at 31/10/2022)
Other Family	114 Aged Dependent Relative	322
	115 Remaining Relative	2,782
	835 Remaining Relative	1,702
	838 Aged Dependent Relative	654
	116 Carer	1,158
	836 Carer	826
	Other Family Total	7,444
Parent	103 Parent	34,733
	804 Aged Parent	15,208
	143 Contributory Parent (Migrant)	70,153
	173 Contributory Parent (Temporary)	2,754
	864 Contributory Aged-Parent (Residence)	7,090
	884 Contributory Aged-Parent (Temporary)	251
	Parent Total	130,189

Notes

¹ Includes primary and secondary applicants. Onhand applications that are pending payment resolution are also included.

² Partner visa applications involve a two stage process, and the two applications must be lodged together. That is, the offshore Partner (Provisional) (subclass 309) visa is lodged with the Partner (Migrant) (subclass 100) visa; and the onshore Partner (Temporary) (subclass 820) visa is lodged with the Partner (Residence) (subclass 801) visa. The two applications are, in the majority of cases, decided at different times. To avoid double counting, only first stage Partner visa grants, which include subclasses 300, 309 (offshore) and 820 (onshore) visas, count towards the Migration Program.

³ Second stage Partner applications (subclasses 801 Partner (Residence)) visa and 100 Partner (Migrant) visa generally become eligible for assessment (active) two years after lodgment of the combined first/second stage application.

⁴ Processing times are unavailable due to a small number of applications finalised as at 31 October 2022.