

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/014) - Average length of time for vetting process - Programme 2.2:  
Migration**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 33) asked:

Do you have an average length time for our vetting process—the average duration?

Mr Pezzullo: Just to be clear, whether you come into our onshore program or whether we engage in third-country assistance—and there are previous instances of us having done that—the refugee determination process is one thing, then under the Migration Act there are checks required for health, security and character as well. All of those checks will be applicable in this circumstance.

Senator McKIM: But that will not commence until after the RSD process has been—

Mr Pezzullo: No, we need to have referrals—we need actual cases before our vetters—

Senator McKIM: Do you have an average length of time for our vetting process—the average duration.

Mr Pezzullo: It is somewhat dependent upon the complexity of the case.

Senator McKIM: That is why I asked for the average.

Mr Pezzullo: In terms of qualified time periods I would take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: All right.

Mr Pezzullo: The experience we have had with the Syrian program is that in some cases it is relatively brief—a few weeks at least. In other cases it is protracted—it can be months. Your question was about the average. I will take that on notice.

*Answer:*

Departmental systems are not calibrated in a way that would allow the Department to report on the average length of time taken to complete the public interest, health, security and character checking component of the overall assessment process.