

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE14/091) PROGRAMME – 3.1 and 3.2: Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution**

Senator Singh (L&CA 66) asked:

Senator SINGH: I just want to go back to the process of the offshore humanitarian visas. How long, on average, does it take from application to settlement?

Ms Larkins: I do not think I have those figures with me so I will take that on notice and come back to you on that.

Mr Bowles: Figures vary depending on where they are too—

Senator SINGH: Yes, but there must be an on average figure.

Mr Bowles: I do not think you should average it because in South East Asia it could be quite significantly different to Pakistan, Afghanistan and so on.

Senator SINGH: All right. Well if it is taken on notice, then perhaps a detailed answer for the different countries.

*Answer:*

The average processing time from date of lodgment to date of grant for all offshore Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) cases granted visas between 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014 was 49.4 weeks.

The table at [Attachment A](#) sets out this information by the country of birth of the principal applicant in each visa application (case) for the ‘Top Ten’ countries of birth.

## Attachment A

### Average processing time for Class XB cases granted visas between 1 July 2013 and 31 May 2014 by country of birth (Top Ten Countries of Birth)

Country of birth <sup>1</sup>	Number of cases <sup>2</sup> granted visas <sup>3</sup>	Average processing time from date of application to date of grant (weeks)
Afghanistan	998	37.2
Iraq	551	53.1
Burma	528	46.6
Iran	216	39.4
Syria	196	44.5
Bhutan	138	50.0
Eritrea	93	47.3
Ethiopia	81	69.3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	80	53.6
Somalia	58	159.1
Other	327	69.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3266</b>	<b>49.4</b>

Data was extracted from departmental systems on 22 June 2014.

Notes:

1. The country of birth of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
2. 'Cases' counts the number of applications, not the number of individual applicants. Each application may include more than one person, that is, the principal applicant and other secondary applicants such as family members.
3. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).