

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/110) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Seselja (L&CA 81) asked:

Senator SESELJA: Has the trend in the last year and a half been for it to take a longer or shorter time to process 457 applications?

Mr Vardos: I understand that the processing time has blown out a little bit. I cannot give you the exact figure but I understand that it has regressed in the comparable period 12 months before that.

Senator SESELJA: Perhaps on notice you could give us those numbers.

Answer:

The median processing times by month for primary 457 visas from December 2012 to May 2014 are provided in the table below.

Median processing times (calendar days) for subclass 457 primary visa applications decided between December 2012 and May 2014 by month

Month	Median Processing Times (days)
Dec 12	13
Jan 13	14
Feb 13	14
Mar 13	14
Apr 13	14
May 13	20
Jun 13	23
Jul 13	34
Aug 13	47
Sep 13	63
Oct 13	49
Nov 13	37
Dec 13	30
Jan 14	37
Feb 14	22
Mar 14	20
Apr 14	23
May 14	28

Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection, 2014 (BE7397.01)

Note 1: Figures are subject to variation

The announcement in February 2013 of reforms to the 457 programme and an increase to visa application costs led to an increase in subclass 457 visa applications in June 2013. As a result of this surge, processing times increased significantly and peaked at 63 days in September 2013.

There has been an improving trend since that time.