

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/440) PROGRAMME –

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

How many people are currently affected by this directive (i.e. how many people have applications for family migration visa applications pending)?

How many of these applications have been made by UMAs?

How many places are currently available under the family reunion stream?

Is it correct to say this is the most commonly used subclass for people seeking family reunion (whether UMAs or not)?

What is the “average” length of time for such an application to be processed?

What effect do you think this will have on people seeking to be reunited with their families?

Do you think it will act as a deterrent to people potentially considering getting to Australia by boat?

Answer:

Direction 62 orders the processing priorities for all Family stream visas. Its primary impact is on Partner visa applications where the sponsor is a former illegal maritime arrival (IMA). As at 30 November 2014, 1 098 such sponsors were identified, affecting 2 193 visa applicants (partner and dependents).

In the 2014-15 Migration Programme, there are 60 885 places allocated to the Family stream. This includes a range of categories and subclasses for family reunion purposes (although individuals may choose to reunite through the use of other visa categories for which they are eligible). Key indicative average processing times which will apply to recent and new applications, based on current policy settings and available places, are as follows:

Family Stream: current average processing times

Partner visas	exceeds 12 months
Child visas	up to 14 months
Parent visas	queued – approx. 30 years (for recent applications)
Contributory parent visas	12-24 months
Carer visas	approx. 4.5 years
Remaining relative/aged dependent relative	approx. 56 years (for recent applications)

Direction 62 is one of the measures implemented by the Australian Government aimed at deterring people from arriving illegally in Australia by boat.