

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/140) - Partner visas - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

In relation to partner visas:

How many partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) applications did the DIBP receive in 2015/16?
Please provide a breakdown for the previous five years.

What is the expected wait time for the processing of partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801)?

What is longest period taken to process a partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) in 2015/16?

How many partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) waited longer than 12 months for a decision in 2015/16?

How many partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) were declined in 2015/16? Please provide a breakdown for the previous five years.

Please provide a breakdown of the reasons these applications were declined.

Answer:

How many partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) applications did the DIBP receive in 2015/16?

The Department received 61,326 applications for a Partner visa (subclass 820 and 801) in 2015–16.

Please provide a breakdown for the previous five years.

Information is provided in the table below:

Programme year	820/801 Partner visa applications lodged
2014–15	62,074
2013–14	66,455
2012–13	62,433
2011–12	59,100
2010–11	56,580

What is the expected wait time for the processing of a Partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801)?

The current average processing time for a Partner visa (subclass 820 and 801) application is 15 to 18 months.

What is the longest period taken to process a Partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) in 2015/16?

The longest processing time for a Partner (subclass 820 and 801) visa application in 2015–16 was approximately nine years.

How many Partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801) waited longer than 12 months for a decision in 2015/16?

Information is provided in the table below:

Programme year	Subclass 820	Subclass 801
2015–16	15,342	20,167

How many partner visas (subclasses 820 and 801) were declined in 2015/16? Please provide a breakdown for the previous five years.

Information is provided in the table below:

Programme year	820/801 Partner visa applications refused
2015–16	6,241
2014–15	7,517
2013–14	5,597
2012–13	2,953
2011–12	2,294
2010–11	1,956

Please provide a breakdown of the reasons these applications were declined.

The top reasons for refusing a Partner visa include:

- The delegate is not satisfied the applicant is the spouse or de facto partner of the sponsor (as prescribed in the *Migration Act 1958*);
- Failing to meet health and/or character requirements; and
- Fraud, including identity fraud.