

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(32) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Bartlett (L&CA 44) asked:

Perhaps you could respond on notice as to whether any specific action is being taken to reduce the processing time in the contributory parent visa category—whether it is extra staff numbers, procedural changes or whatever it might be.

Answer:

The current average processing time is 12 months from application to visa grant for offshore visa applications in the Contributory Parent category.

Over the last 12 months the number of staff working in the Perth Offshore Parents Centre (POPC) has been increased by around 25 per cent, revised management arrangements have been put in place and processes have been reviewed.

Continuing interest in the program has seen the pipeline of applicants grow from around 3,000 persons in 2005 to over 7,000 persons. This means that POPC is doing considerably more work even though the output, measured in grants, remains static due to programme constraints.