QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(33) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Bartlett (L&CA 44) asked:

What are the processing times for the permanent skilled migration category? What is the trend?

Answer:

At 31 May 2007 the median processing times for Skill Stream visas lodged offshore was 9.5 months and 4.6 months for applications lodged onshore. By comparison, the respective processing times for 2004-05 were 10.4 months (offshore) and 4 months (onshore).
In 2005-06 the comparable times were 8.5 months and 3.9 months. These times should be seen in the context of an increase in the Skill Stream from an outcome of 77,880 in 2004-05 to a planned outcome of 97,500 in 2006-07, an increase of 25.2 percent.