

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(38) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Crossin (L&CA 48-49) asked:

In relation to question no. 37 asked by Senator Ludwig at the May 2005 Estimates hearing concerning processing times for skilled migrants, has there been a review into improving processing times since 2005? Was any kind of formal review for overall improvement management strategy undertaken?

*Answer:*

Processing arrangements for skilled visas are under constant internal review. Processing times are monitored and reported to monthly performance board meetings. The two major components of the skill stream are the General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa classes and the employer sponsored visa classes.

The Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre (ASPC) processes all GSM applications (75 per cent of the total Skill Stream). The three major factors affecting GSM processing times since 2005 have been:

- ❑ the substantial increase in the size of the Program;
- ❑ the increased size of the pipeline being managed;
- ❑ the changed profile of the caseload in terms of both occupational profile and source country profile. The key factor is that the overall risk profile of the caseload has increased requiring more referrals and hence longer average processing times.

In net terms this means that the ASPC is producing higher outputs while managing a larger and more complex pipeline.