

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

**Question No. 17**

**Senator Bartlett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:**

Is any prioritisation given to protection visa applications for people that are not in detention?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Yes – ASIO does prioritise security assessments for protection visa applicants when the person is not in detention. ASIO also prioritises detention cases. ASIO works closely with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in setting priorities. The two agencies also have a process to escalate the priority of cases as necessary.

The majority of protection visa security assessments are completed in the 90 day timeframe. Some cases take longer depending on their complexity and particular circumstances.