

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0024) Program: Portfolio Tribunals (MRT-RRT)

Senator Boyce asked:

On the surface these absenteeism figures and the failure of the tribunal to meet its statutory obligations in processing times would suggest a system failure. What is the Department doing about this?

Answer:

Members' absences for illness are not high as noted in response to BE11/0012.

The tribunals monitor performance against statutory timeframes and those required by Principal Member Directions (PMDs) for both RRT and MRT cases. RRT cases are prioritised within the tribunals because of the legislative timeframes attached to those cases.

The appointment of five senior members and 22 members to the tribunals from 1 July 2011 will increase the tribunals' operational capacity.

However, each case is unique and sometimes, for reasons provided in the 90 day report, cases take longer than the 90 days.