

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(34) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Ludwig asked:

- (a) How many days does it take for Australia to issue a travel visa by country?
 - Please provide a breakdown by country.
- (b) What is the average number of days of a tourist visa by country?
- (c) How many tourist visas are issued each year by country?

Answer:

(a) There is no readily accessible data to answer this question, as there is no specific “travel” visa category. The Portfolio Budget Statement sets out median processing times standards for each visa category. For key temporary entry visas these are: Non-Sponsored Visitors (Short Stay) – 0.5 months, Non-Sponsored Visitors (Long Stay) – 1 month, Non-Sponsored Business Visitors – 0.5 months, and Working Holiday Makers – 1 day.

The Electronic Travel Authority is only available to nationals of the following countries and locations: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vatican City. For all of these groups, the median processing time was less than one day.

The following table (Attachment A) sets out the actual Median Processing Times for Short Stay Tourist visas, Working Holiday visas, and Business Visitors in the 2004-05 program year by citizenship.

(b) This data is not readily available. In general, the period of stay is determined by the applicant’s purpose for travel and stated intended stay. The standard stay period for most Short Stay Tourists is three months. Since 1 July 2005, it has been possible for tourists to apply for a stay of up to 12 months provided they apply for that period before travelling.

(c) The following table (Attachment B) sets out Tourist Visa Approvals for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 program years by citizenship.