

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0153) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

457 visas and skilled migration: On 27 January 2011 the government announced a five-day turnaround for applications for 457 visas in response to demand for labour on infrastructure projects. How many have been issued to date? In what skills areas? What is the average processing time?

Answer:

As noted in the department's response to Question on Notice BE11/0103, there is no arrangement for a five-day turnaround for visa applications in relation to infrastructure projects.

There was an announcement on 27 January 2011 by the Prime Minister that there would be priority processing of decision-ready Subclass 457 visa applications for businesses assisting with flood reconstruction in Queensland.

Thirty-three (33) visas were granted to 28 November 2011 for flood related work. Following endorsement from the Queensland Government, the mean processing time was only 1.5 days for a complete application.