

Question:

Number of visa applications on hand for more than 27 months for subclass 189 Skilled – Independent (point tested) as at 31 July 2021 by applicant type, location (onshore or offshore) and reasons (or categories of reasons) for delay to finalise or grant?

Any communication or an explanation of internal processes to indicate the priority level of subclass 189 Skilled – Independent (point tested) on hand for more than 27 months (i.e. applications that has exceeded the 90% of application processing times) compared to applications less than 27 months?

Caveats:

- This information is provided for the specific purpose of this request. Any other use of the information provided will require consideration and clearance by Data Division, and a separate request should be made to data.clearance
- It is the responsibility of the area providing Department of Home Affairs information to external stakeholders to ensure that the disclosure is in accordance with the ABF Act, Australian Privacy Principles or other relevant legislation.
- *With regards to Immigration data, the Department's current policy is to mask numbers which are less than five as <5, noting we are reviewing the confidentiality method for the future.*

Notes:

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2021 (internal documents).

Note: Onhand age only captured up to 24 months or more as provided in the response.

Response:

Skilled - Independent (subclass 189) points-tested visas onhand as at 31 July 2021, with onhand age as 24 months of more by client location and applicant type.		
Client Location	Primary Applicant	Secondary Applicant
In Australia	113	86
Outside Australia	396	756

There are a range of circumstances that affect the specific processing timeframe for an individual application, including application completeness, applicant responses to requests for additional information, and the length of time required to perform necessary checks on supporting information.

Other circumstances, such as how long it takes to receive information from external agencies (for example, relating to health, character and national security requirements) are outside of the Department's control.

All skilled independent (subclass 189) visa applications are prioritised according to guidelines outlined at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/skilled-visa-processing-priorities>