

## Question on Notice

No. 710

Asked on 11 June 2024

**MR J MCDONALD** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

### QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) how many Blue Card applications and renewals (reported separately) are yet to be processed that are over three months and (b) what is the oldest outstanding application?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I am advised that Blue Card Services does not routinely report on applications older than three months. Accordingly, this question has been answered in the context of files older than four months, which is consistent with Blue Card Services' usual reporting timeframe.

In 2023-24, as at 30 June 2024, Blue Card Services has finalised 298,464 blue card applications.

96% of blue card applications which returned no police or other relevant information of concern were finalised within five business days.

While Blue Card Services can quickly finalise most applications which do return criminal history advice or other relevant information of concern, some applications can take longer to process. This is because it is imperative that all relevant information is obtained and reviewed, every applicant provided with natural justice, and a thorough and robust assessment undertaken to ensure a decision is made in the best interests of children.

(a) As at 30 June 2024, applications requiring assessment older than four months include 871 first time blue card applications and 2,456 blue card applications for people who previously held a blue card but require reassessment.

Of these, over half are awaiting a response / further information from the applicant or other agencies.

(b) As at 30 June 2024, the oldest outstanding standalone blue card application was received on 3 July 2022.