

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q69

Question:

- a) How many Afghans have been returned to Afghanistan under the terms of the MOU?
- b) How many were voluntary.
- c) How many were involuntary.
- d) When did these removals occur?
- e) Have any removals under the agreement ever been attempted? How many were successful? How many were abandoned and why?

Answer:

- a) As at 26 August 2011, five Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) clients had been removed to Afghanistan under the terms of the MOU. Between October 2008 and the signing of the agreement on 17 January 2011, three clients had been removed voluntarily to Afghanistan.
- b) The five clients removed to Afghanistan under the MOU were voluntary.
- c) No IMA clients have been involuntarily removed to Afghanistan under the MOU as there are currently no Afghan nationals available for removal.
- d) The five removals to Afghanistan under the MOU occurred between 17 January 2011 and 26 August 2011.
- e) As at 26 August 2011, five IMA clients had been removed to Afghanistan under the terms of the MOU. Removal planning can be halted or postponed for a variety of reasons, including: litigation, ministerial intervention requests, safety concerns or a client withdrawal of their request for removal. The department does not keep consolidated statistics on the number of removals postponed or aborted given the diversity of factors which might affect removability and removability timeframes.