

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION (JSCM)
INQUIRY INTO IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN AUSTRALIA
44 QUESTIONS

Responses from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Questions 1b, 33 and 34

RECEIVED
 12 NOV 2008

Detention data

The Committee requests the following data to inform its inquiry: BY: MIG

- 1b. Annual number of immigration detainees in Australia for each year from 1988 – present, and breakdowns of**
- the number arriving as part of a family (as a couple, or parent(s) with children)**

Statistics on family groups are not easily identified in data. However, the Department is providing the information it has available.

Table 1 shows the number of families in immigration detention since 2004.

Families in Immigration Detention				
Year	Family units w/Children	Couples (no children)	Other *	Totals
2004 #	51	97	78	226
2005	18	89	72	179
2006	5	71	101	177
2007	13	36	137	186
2008 (to 23 October)	8	54	72	134
Totals	95	347	460	902

* Predominantly apprehended foreign fishers where a crew 'minder' is appointed for unaccompanied minors in the arrested crews

May include people detained prior to 2004

This table was derived using manual analysis of the data for the calendar years 2004 to 2008 (to 23 October). A similar analysis would be required to provide family group information for the years prior to 2004, and this would require considerable time and resources to extract.

Table 2 shows the number of children arriving, together with the number of males/females, for the years 1989-90 to 2007-08.

Program Year	Detained Person Type				Total
	Female - Adult	Male - Adult	Minor	Unknown#	
1989-90 *	48	122	62	14	246
1990-91	57	126	66	11	260
1991-92	42	119	25	2	188
1992-93	49	197	17	3	266
1993-94	49	161	63	5	278
1994-95	286	500	376	14	1,176
1995-96	159	349	184	1	693
1996-97	120	727	73		920
1997-98	393	1,359	110	1	1,863
1998-99	649	2,852	216		3,717
1999-00	1,025	5,627	822	3	7,477
2000-01	1,390	6,053	1,344	4	8,791
2001-02	1,785	6,307	1,224	5	9,321
2002-03	1,536	5,157	427	4	7,124
2003-04	1,586	5,053	324	1	6,964
2004-05	1,600	5,989	381		7,970
2005-06	920	5,542	425		6,887
2006-07	794	3,988	276		5,058
2007-08	640	3,744	239		4,623

* Data available from 28/11/1989 onwards only

Gender unknown and/or age unknown

Table 3 provides for calendar years 1994 to 2007 the number recorded as unaccompanied minors.

Year	Minors recorded as unaccompanied
1994-95	2
1995-96	1
1996-97	7
1997-98	10
1998-99	7
1999-00	53
2000-01	93
2001-02	198
2002-03	8
2003-04	1
2004-05	0
2005-06	1
2006-07	5
2007-08	2

33. How many people have been in community-based alternatives over the last three years?

Financial Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Community Detention	76	143	108

Note – If a person's placement spanned two years, they would be counted in both years.

As at 31 July 2008, the Community Care Pilot has provided assistance to 767 of the Department's most vulnerable and complex clients.

34. What is the average daily/weekly cost per person of the various community-based alternatives?

Community Detention costs per person average at \$124 per day. This includes the costs incurred by the Australian Red Cross on behalf of clients such as financial support (for food, clothing, utilities), rent assistance and where applicable, education costs for children at the local public school.

For the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, there were, on average, 48 people in Community Detention at any time. This figure is derived from an average of once-weekly totals over the period.