

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
BUDGET ESTIMATES  
MAY 2023**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 2.4: UMA Offshore Management**

**BE23-767 - Transitory Persons - maritime arrivals transferred to regional processing country**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Of the total 4,183 irregular maritime arrivals transferred to a regional processing country, please provide the current number of people:

- a. who were returned to Australia;
- b. who have been transferred to Australia;
- c. who remain in Papua New Guinea and Nauru;
- d. who are residing in a third country;
- e. who have returned to their country of origin;
- f. who are deceased.

*Answer:*

Of the 4,183 transitory persons taken to a regional processing country since 13 August 2012, and as at 31 March 2023:

- a. 838 individuals who were returned to Australia after the signing of the Regional Resettlement Arrangement with Papua New Guinea (PNG) on 19 July 2013 remain in Australia.
- b. 1,083 individuals who arrived on or after 19 July 2013, and were transferred to Australia for a temporary purpose, remain in Australia.
- c. 41 individuals were in Nauru, and 105\* individuals were in PNG at 31 December 2021 (excluding less than 5 individual incarcerated).
- d. 1,108\*\* were resettled in a third country.
- e. 958\*\*\* were returned to their country of origin.
- f. 21 are deceased.

\*Effective 31 December 2021, Australia's regional processing association with PNG ended, with arrangements transitioning to the PNG Government's independent management. The residual PNG population is not included in the overall regional processing caseload and is not actively reported.

\*\*This figure does not include 11 individuals resettled in the United States from PNG post 31 December 2021.

\*\*\* This figure includes individuals involuntarily removed to their home country by the PNG Government under its domestic laws, but excludes less than five individuals who voluntarily returned to a third country.