

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
 Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.3: Refugee Humanitarian, Settlement and Migrant Services

AE25-369 - Asylum seekers screened in at Australian airports

Senator David Shoebridge asked:

- a) "Please provide the number of asylum seekers 'screened in' at Australian airports since 1 January 2013? (broken down by individual calendar year):
- a. How many lodged a protection visa application and how many were subsequently granted a visa or refused a visa?
 - b. What was the longest period of detention (and nationality)?
 - c. What was the shortest period of detention (and nationality)?
 - d. What was the average length of detention?
 - e. What were the top five countries of nationality?"

Answer:

Table 1 shows the number of unauthorised air arrivals (UAAs) from 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2024 who were screened in:

- a) Of those UAAs who were screened in, 174 UAAs lodged protection visa applications, 122 UAAs were found to be owed to be protection and 33 UAAs were refused a protection visa (note: some applicants are currently at Administrative or Judicial Review).

Table 1

	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -22	2022 -23	2023 -24	2024 -25*
Unauthorised Air Arrivals	66	40	59	41	62	60	40	0	12	45	53	45
Screened in	29	27	39	6	12	17	10	0	9	8	25	10

1. 2024-2025 data is as at 31 December 2024.
2. The lodgement, grant and refusal data refers to the first valid protection visa application lodged following the screening assessment.
3. Applications lodged in one program year may not be finalised in the same program year. Therefore, data relating to lodgements and finalisations (grants and refusals) in a program year cannot be directly compared.
4. As data has been drawn from a dynamic system environment, the information is correct at the time of extraction and figures may differ slightly from previous or future reporting. Data has been compiled from multiple sources, including manual reports.

Table 2 provides information for screened in UAAs:

- b) the longest period of detention (and nationality)
- c) the shortest period of detention (and nationality)
- d) the average length of detention
- e) The top five nationalities

Table 2

Year of Screening	Longest period of detention and nationality (days)	Shortest period of detention and nationality (days)	Average length of detention in days	Top five nationalities ³
2013	1190 (Pakistan)	20 (Nigeria)	335	Pakistan, Afghanistan, China (exc. SAR), Iran, Iraq, Italy, Korea (South), Nigeria and Somalia
2014	1194 (Pakistan)	1 (India)	381	Bahrain, India, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zambia
2015	1215 (Sudan)	0 (multiple nationalities)	503	Afghanistan, Austria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China (exc. SAR), India, Iraq, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, United States Of America and Venezuela
2016	2455 (Brazil)	28 (Iraq)	604	Azerbaijan, Brazil, Chad, Ghana, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Zimbabwe
2017	415 (Sri Lanka)	88 (Pakistan)	204	Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe ⁴
2018	875 (Sri Lanka)	85 (Pakistan)	281	Afghanistan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Rwanda and Sri Lanka
2019	2025 (Sri Lanka)	3 (multiple nationalities)	228	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka
2020	63 (Papua New Guinea)	63 (Papua New Guinea)	63	Nil
2021	1104 (Afghanistan)	92 (Pakistan)	598	Pakistan ⁴
2022	363 (Iraq)	72 (Kenya)	231	Iraq, Kenya, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka
2023	728 (Sri Lanka)	8 (Afghanistan)	169	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China (exc. Sar), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu
2024	280 (South Africa)	28 (Russia)	137	Iran, Palestinian Authority, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Ukraine

1. This information is provided by the Department of Home Affairs and was extracted from departmental systems on 13 March 2025. As data has been drawn from a dynamic system environment, the information is correct at the time of extraction and figures may differ slightly from previous or future reporting. Data has been compiled from multiple sources, including manual reports.
2. Note for (b), (c) and (d): Includes all types of detention, and for any period of consecutive days detained. Data was extracted on 13 March 2025 from live Departmental systems, and may differ with previous and future reporting.
3. Some countries have equal number of asylum seekers as other countries in the top five hence there are more than five countries listed in some years.
4. 'Screened in' represent less than five nationalities