

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
MARCH / APRIL 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: IMA Offshore Management

BE22-081 - Assisted Voluntary Returns

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Please provide the Committee with an update of the information provided in the following response to a previous Question on Notice:

BE21-426 - Assisted Voluntary Returns

How many assisted voluntary returns have taken place to countries of origin from PNG and Nauru?

a. How many of those men were found to be refugees by either local or Australian immigration agencies?

b. Please provide a breakdown by country (PNG or Nauru), by sex, and by age of majority (adult or minor).

Answer:

Since September 2012 and as at 31 January 2022, there were 752 direct assisted voluntary returns from a regional processing country to a transferee's country of origin:

	Total	Refugees	Gender	Age (Adult/minor)
Nauru	111	13	Male = 86	Adults = 99
			Female = 25	Minors = 12
PNG*	641	39	Male = 641	Adults = 641
Total	752	52	752	752

Note: Australia's regional processing association in Papua New Guinea ended on 31 December 2021 and individuals remaining in PNG are under the independent management of the Government of PNG. The Department no longer monitors or reports the caseload in PNG and cannot provide updates beyond 31 December 2021, excepting any outcomes achieved under the United States resettlement arrangement. Returns data above for the PNG caseload is therefore as at 31 December 2021.

Note: Excludes returns to a country of origin, which were not funded and facilitated by the Department and its service providers.