

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
21-24 May 2018**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Australian Border Force**

Program 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Question number and title: BE18/024 - Operation Sovereign Borders intercepted vessels

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Senator McKIM: Yes, I understand. Of the 23 boats that were not able to be returned to their country of origin or departure, what were the reasons for those vessels not being able to be returned?

Mr Pezzullo: When we study the numbers intercepted in person and the boats and persons detained under the MPA, we'll look at those circumstances.

Senator McKIM: All right. Could you also tell me—I'm sure you'll need to take this on notice—where the 1,309 people were taken. And I think we've caught this already, but could you provide a comprehensive list of all intercepted vessels, irrespective of whether they're classified as arrivals or returns, since the commencement of OSB, broken down by the number of people on board each vessel, the month and year of the interception and the destination of the people on board. I'm just trying to get a total picture here: how many vessels there were—

CHAIR: Senator McKim—

Senator McKIM: I'm nearly done on this line, Chair—when they were intercepted and what happened to the people on them.

Mr Pezzullo: We've taken that on notice.

Answer:

The people on board twenty-two of the vessels intercepted between September and December 2013 were not returned as they arrived prior to the commencement of return operations.

Returns are conducted only when safe to do so and when Australia is able to meet its domestic and international legal obligations. The occupants of the 23rd vessel in July 2014 were not able to be returned and were transferred to regional processing.

Please refer to the table below. The total number includes all the people on board (inclusive of crew).

Overview of Arrivals - People Smuggling Ventures

Number	Date	Total Number of People on Board	Summary
Financial Year 2013 – 2014			
1	September 2013	33	Arrival
2	September 2013	21	Arrival
3	September 2013	7	Arrival
4	September 2013	72	Arrival
5	September 2013	82	Arrival
6	October 2013	79	Arrival
7	October 2013	55	Arrival
8	October 2013	42	Arrival
9	October 2013	42	Arrival
10	October 2013	128	Arrival
11	November 2013	63	Arrival
12	November 2013	68	Arrival
13	November 2013	40	Arrival
14	November 2013	39	Arrival
15	November 2013	11	Arrival
16	December 2013	31	Arrival
17	December 2013	27	Arrival
18	December 2013	72	Arrival
19	December 2013	63	Arrival
20	December 2013	5	Arrival
21	December 2013	71	Arrival
22	December 2013	100	Arrival
Financial Year 2014 - 2015			
23	July 2014	157	Arrival
Financial Year 2015 – 2016 – no arrivals			

Financial Year 2016 – 2017 - no arrivals
Financial Year 2017 – 2018 - no arrivals to 31 May 2018

Please refer to the table below. The total number includes all persons returned and, in brackets, the number of children.

Overview of Returned People Smuggling Ventures

Number	Date	Total Number of People on Board	Summary
Financial Year 2013 – 2014			
1	December 2013	49 (17)	Turnback
2	December 2013	50 (8)	Turnback
3	December 2013	40 (4)	Turnback
4	January 2014	47 (13)	Assisted Return
5	January 2014	27 (4)	Turnback
6	January 2014	58 (20)	Turnback
7	February 2014	38 (3)	Turnback
8	February 2014	28 (2)	Turnback
9	May 2014	20	Turnback
10	May 2014	3	Turnback
11	May 2014	3	Turnback
Financial Year 2014 - 2015			
12	July 2014	41 (9)	Takeback
13	September 2014	10	Assisted Return
14	November 2014	37 (6)	Takeback
15	January 2015	3	Assisted Return
16	February 2015	4	Takeback

17	March 2015	17 (3)	Turnback
18	April 2015	46 (22)	Takeback
19	May 2015	71	Assisted Return
Financial Year 2015 - 2016			
20	July 2015	46 (18)	Takeback
21	August 2015	27	Turnback
22	November 2015	3	Assisted Return
23	November 2015	17	Turnback
24	February 2016	5	Takeback
25	March 2016	8	Assisted Return
26	May 2016	12 (2)	Takeback
27	May 2016	3	Assisted Return
28	June 2016	21 (4)	Takeback
Financial Year 2016 - 2017			
29	August 2016	6	Takeback
30	March 2017	25	Takeback
31	June 2017	6	Takeback
Financial Year 2017 - 2018			
32	December 2017	29	Takeback