

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

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 2.4: UMA Offshore Management**

**AE25-059 - BVE holder access to work rights, Medicare and education**

Senator David Shoebridge asked:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: What is the current visa status of the 900-odd people who are in Australia? Do they have working rights? Do they have access to Medicare? Do they have access to education? What's their current visa status, because this could go on for a very long time?

Mr Thomas: It will depend on the individual, but, of the 927 number I mentioned from 31 December, 810 were on a bridging visa E, 112 were on residence determination, fewer than five were in held detention, fewer than five were on a bridging visa R and fewer than five were babies.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Of the 810 on a bridging visa E, can you provide on notice how many had access to work rights, Medicare and education?

Mr Thomas: Yes, I can provide that on notice. It will vary depending on the individual circumstance.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Can you provide a breakdown of the ages?

Mr Thomas: I will take that on notice.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: That's for the whole cohort, if you could.

Mr Thomas: Yes.

*Answer:*

The transitory person cohort comprises unauthorised maritime arrivals (UMAs) on or after 19 July 2013 who were taken to a regional processing country, and children subsequently born to those UMAs.

As at 31 December 2024, 927 transitory persons were temporarily in Australia. Of these:

- 810 were managed in the community on a Bridging E visa (BVE) (including 20 on an expired BVE awaiting consideration of a further BVE grant), which provides:
  - Work rights, access to Medicare, and for individuals under 18 years of age access to education.
  - Individuals 18 years and over do not have study rights, consistent with policy settings regarding their temporary status in Australia.
  - In limited circumstances, individuals 18 years and over are able to apply for a further BVE permitting a period of no more than three months study for employment-focussed purposes.

The following table provides a breakdown of the transitory person population temporarily in Australia by age as at 31 December 2024:

<b>Age</b>	<b>0-17 years</b>	<b>18-25 years</b>	<b>26-35 years</b>	<b>36-45 years</b>	<b>46-66 years</b>	<b>67+ years</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>927</b>