

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
MAY 2024**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: UMA Offshore Management

BE24-0733 - Transitory Persons - Transferred to a Regional Processing Country

Senator David Shoebridge asked:

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

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

Answer:

Since 13 August 2012 and as at 31 March 2024, there had been 4,245 unauthorised maritime arrivals taken to a regional processing country. Of the 4,245:

- a. 2,485 individuals taken to a regional processing country were transferred to Australia on at least one occasion.
- b. 54 individuals were in Nauru, and 105* individuals were in PNG at 31 December 2021 (excluding less than five individuals incarcerated).
- c. 1,247** were resettled in a third country.
- d. 984*** were returned to their country of origin.
- e. 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 13 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.