

Question on notice no. 203

Portfolio question number: SE17/204

2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr: asked the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 23 October 2017—

Please provide the number of vessels turned back by the ABF, the dates on which they were turned back, the number of adults and the number of children on board, and the country where the vessel departed from for:

- 2012/2013
- 2013/2014
- 2014/2015
- 2015/2016
- 2016/2017
- 2017/2018

Answer —

Please refer to the table below. The total number includes all the people on board and in brackets the number of children.

Overview of Returned People Smuggling Ventures

Number	Date of Return	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 (2)	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			
	None as at 31 October 2017		

Since the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders, there have been 771 individuals returned of which 117 have been identified as children (under 18 years). This figure is a correction to the information provided for BE17/307. An error was found to have been made in the calculation of the previous figure. Similarly Venture number 22 in November 2015 is more appropriately characterised as an 'Assisted return'. The Department regrets these errors. The DIBP data holdings have been crosschecked and clarified. The figures provided above represent the most accurate

information available to date. To preserve operational security, further details will not be disclosed.