

Question on notice no. 346

Portfolio question number: AE21-346

2020-21 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Australian Border Force on 22 March 2021—

Please provide a breakdown on the total number of alternative places of detention (APODs) in Australia at all times since 2018 (prior to the passing of the Medevac Bill) , including a breakdown of:

- a. number of total which are hotels/motels;
- b. number of total in each State and territory; and
- c. for each hotel/motel APOD:
 - i. maximum authorised capacity;
 - ii. highest number of people detained there at any time since 2018 (and when that was) ;
 - iii. number of people per room;
 - iv. amenities available including for freedom of movement, recreation, etc.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
22 MARCH 2021**

Home Affairs Portfolio

Program 1.3: Onshore Compliance and Detention

AE21-346 - Alternative places of detention (APODs) in Australia since 2018

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- a. number of total which are hotels/motels;
- b. number of total in each State and territory; and
- c. for each hotel/motel APOD:
 - i. maximum authorised capacity;
 - ii. highest number of people detained there at any time since 2018 (and when that was);
 - iii. number of people per room;
 - iv. amenities available including for freedom of movement, recreation, etc.

Answer:

From 1 January 2018 to 31 January 2021, there were 170 Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) used in Australia at any time. APODs are places of immigration detention as defined in the *Migration Act 1958*, approved in writing by the Minister of the Minister's delegate under subparagraph (b)(v) of the definition of "immigration detention" in subsection 5(1) of the Act. Examples of APODs include hotels, motels, apartments, hospitals and aged care facilities.

a. number of total which are hotels/motels

As at 31 January 2021, 56 APODs were classified as hotel-type APODs. (The classification of APODs as hotel-type APODs is based on information contained within Departmental systems.)

b. number of total in each State and territory

State/Territory	Total
New South Wales	27
Victoria	39
Queensland	51
South Australia	<20
Western Australia	36

State/Territory	Total
Northern Territory	<5
TOTAL	170

c. for each hotel/motel APOD:

i. maximum authorised capacity;

The capacity of hotel-type APODs is dependent on the operational reasons that the APOD is required for. This could be a room or several rooms.

ii. highest number of people detained there at any time since 2018 (and when that was)

APODs (deidentified) by state	Highest Detainee Population	Associated Date
New South Wales		
	<5	12/03/2018
	<5	24/08/2018
	<5	24/09/2018
	<5	15/10/2018
	20	20/11/2018
	<5	29/03/2019
	<5	10/06/2020
Victoria		
	17	17/11/2018
	10	1/08/2019
	<5	10/08/2019
	<5	11/11/2019
	<5	20/11/2019
	77	20/07/2020
	17	3/08/2020
	<5	22/08/2020
	58	17/12/2020
	11	31/01/2021
Queensland		
	<5	2/01/2018
	7	24/01/2018
	<5	5/02/2018
	<5	22/02/2018
	<5	29/03/2018
	<5	10/05/2018

APODs (deidentified) by state	Highest Detainee Population	Associated Date
	<5	10/07/2018
	<5	28/09/2018
	6	5/10/2018
	<5	26/10/2018
	<5	5/11/2018
	43	15/11/2018
	60	19/11/2018
	<5	7/02/2019
	<5	28/03/2019
	<5	23/05/2019
	<5	14/11/2019
	6	21/11/2019
	<5	30/11/2019
	5	28/03/2020
	117	1/04/2020
	39	25/08/2020
	<5	14/11/2020
South Australia		
	<5	27/09/2018
	<5	6/10/2018
	26	20/11/2018
	<5	16/07/2019
	<5	28/05/2020
Western Australia		
	<5	8/02/2018
	<5	30/03/2018
	<5	23/09/2018
	<5	27/10/2018
	<5	17/01/2019
	<5	17/01/2019
	7	29/01/2019
	10	5/03/2020
	<5	10/03/2020
	<5	22/04/2020
	<5	22/12/2020

Note: Information is based on departmental system data as at 6am 12 April 2021.

c. iii. number of people per room

The number of people per room is not available in a reportable format.

c. iv. amenities available including for freedom of movement, recreation, etc

As with all immigration detention facilities, detainees in APODs have access to appropriate food (accommodating dietary and cultural requirements), educational programs, cultural, recreational and sporting activities, internet and computer facilities, televisions, and clean, comfortable sleeping quarters.