

Question on notice no. 426

Portfolio question number: BE21-426

2021-22 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 11 June 2021—

How many assisted voluntary returns have taken place to countries of origin from PNG and Nauru?

a. How many of those men were found to be refugees by either local or Australian immigration agencies?

b. Please provide a breakdown by country (PNG or Nauru) , by sex, and by age of majority (adult or minor) .

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
24-25 MAY 2021**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: IMA Offshore Management

BE21-426 - Assisted Voluntary Returns

Senator Nick McKim asked:

How many assisted voluntary returns have taken place to countries of origin from PNG and Nauru?

- a. How many of those men were found to be refugees by either local or Australian immigration agencies?
- b. Please provide a breakdown by country (PNG or Nauru), by sex, and by age of majority (adult or minor).

Answer:

Between 19 July 2013 and 30 April 2021, there were 728 assisted voluntary returns to a country of origin direct from PNG and Nauru.

- a. 626 transitory persons returned from PNG:
 - 39 refugees
 - 493 asylum seekers
 - 94 failed asylum seekers
 - all returnees were adult males.

- b. 102 transitory persons returned from Nauru:
 - 13 refugees
 - 84 asylum seekers
 - five failed asylum seekers
 - 77 males and 25 females
 - 90 were adults at the time of return, and 12 were minors at time of return.