

**Question on notice no. 272**

**Portfolio question number: AE22-272**

**2021-22 Additional estimates**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio**

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Department of Home Affairs on 14 February 2022

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How many people transferred from Nauru or PNG in Australia have requested to be returned to a regional processing country?

a. Of these, how many made the request while in held detention? How many have subsequently withdrawn their request for removal?

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES  
14 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 3.5: Onshore Compliance and Detention**

**AE22-272 - People transferred from Nauru or PNG - requests to return**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

How many people transferred from Nauru or PNG in Australia have requested to be returned to a regional processing country?

a. Of these, how many made the request while in held detention? How many have subsequently withdrawn their request for removal?

*Answer:*

As at 31 December 2021, 153 transitory persons who transferred from Nauru and PNG to Australia for a temporary purpose made requests to return voluntarily to a regional processing country.

- a. 151 transitory persons made voluntary return requests while in held detention.
- b. 73 transitory persons subsequently withdrew their voluntary request to return, or have not complied with return requirements, including COVID-19 vaccination and COVID-19 pre-departure testing.

Note: Transitory persons can make or withdraw a request to return voluntarily to a regional processing country at any point, meaning the number of transitory persons seeking voluntary return is fluid. For the purpose of this response duplicate requests or withdrawals by the same transitory person have not been counted.