

**Question on notice no. 77**

**Portfolio question number: BE22-077**

**2022-23 Budget estimates**

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

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Department of Home Affairs on 19 April 2022—

Please provide the Committee with an update of the information provided in the following response to a previous Question on Notice:

BE20-322 - Offshore processing - Papua New Guinea - Voluntary Returns

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
BUDGET ESTIMATES  
MARCH / APRIL 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 2.4: IMA Offshore Management**

**BE22-077 - Offshore processing - Papua New Guinea - Voluntary Returns**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Please provide the Committee with an update of the information provided in the following responses to previous Question on Notice:

BE20-322 - Offshore processing - Papua New Guinea - Voluntary Returns

How many assisted voluntary returns have taken place to countries of origin from Papua New Guinea?

a. How many of those men were found to be refugees by Papua New Guinea Immigration?

*Answer:*

As at 31 December 2021, there were 641 assisted voluntary returns to countries of origin from Papua New Guinea (PNG).

a) 39 of the individuals voluntarily returned were refugees.

Note: Figures do not include five individuals who returned home voluntarily as self-funded returnees.

Note: Australia ended its regional processing association with PNG on 31 December 2021 and individuals remaining in PNG are under the independent management of the PNG Government. The Department no longer monitors or reports on the caseload in PNG, as such details are as at 31 December 2021.