

Question on notice no. 142

Portfolio question number: OBE22-142

2022-23 Budget estimates October and November

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 18 November 2022

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Please provide an update to question AE22-275 - Medical transfers and transitory persons in Australia - irregular maritime arrivals:

Of the total 4,183 irregular maritime arrivals transferred to a regional processing country, please provide the current number of people:

- a. who were returned to Australia;
- b. who have been transferred to Australia;
- c. who remain in Papua New Guinea and Nauru;
- d. who are residing in a third country;
- e. who have returned to their country of origin; and
- f. who are deceased.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 3.5: Onshore Compliance and Detention

**OBE22-142 - Medical transfers and transitory persons in Australia - Unauthorised
Maritime Arrivals**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

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- e. who have returned to their country of origin; and
- f. who are deceased.

Answer:

Of the 4,183 transitory persons taken to a regional processing country since 1 August 2012, and as at 31 August 2022:

- a. 856 individuals who were returned to Australia after the signing of the Regional Resettlement Arrangement with Papua New Guinea (PNG) on 19 July 2013 remained in Australia.
- b. 1,081 individuals who were transferred to Australia for a temporary purpose and arrived after 19 July 2013 remained in Australia.
- c. 111 were in Nauru, and 105* individuals were in PNG at 31 December 2021 (excluding one (1) individual incarcerated).
- d. 1,042** were resettled in a third country.
- e. 963*** were returned to their country of origin.
- f. 21 are deceased.

**Effective 31 December 2021, Australia's regional processing association with PNG ended, with arrangements transitioning to the PNG Government's independent management. The residual PNG population is not included in the overall regional processing caseload and is not actively reported.*

***This figure does not include six (6) individuals resettled in the United States from PNG post 31 December 2021, or accompanying family members who were not transferred to a regional processing country.*

****This figure includes individuals involuntarily removed to their home country by the PNG Government under its domestic laws, but excludes three (3) individuals who voluntarily returned to a third country (not their country of origin).*