

Question on notice no. 846

Portfolio question number: OSE23-846

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Australian Border Force on 23 October 2023—

Of the total 4,183 irregular maritime arrivals transferred to a regional processing country prior to September 2023, please provide the current number of people:

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

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2023**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: UMA Offshore Management

OSE23-846 - Transitory Persons - Transferred to a Regional Processing Country

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Of the total 4,183 irregular maritime arrivals transferred to a regional processing country prior to September 2023, please provide the current number of people:

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

Answer:

Of the 4,183 transitory persons taken to a regional processing country since 13 August 2012, and as at 31 August 2023:

- a. 1,054 individuals who arrived on or after 19 July 2013, and were transferred to Australia for a temporary purpose, remain in Australia.
- b. Less than five individuals were in Nauru, and 105* individuals were in PNG at 31 December 2021 (excluding less than five individuals incarcerated).
- c. 1,177** were resettled in a third country.
- d. 963*** were returned to their country of origin.
- e. 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 13 individuals resettled in the United States from PNG post 31 December 2021.

***This figure includes individuals involuntarily removed to their home country by the PNG Government under its domestic laws, but excludes less than five individuals who voluntarily returned to a third country.