

**Question on notice no. 686**

**Portfolio question number: AE24-686**

**2023-24 Additional estimates**

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

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Australian Border Force on 12 February 2024—

Please provide an update of the earlier table "Returned People Smuggling Ventures".

- a. Please indicate the mode of return for every venture.
- b. Please also include the total number of persons returned (and the number of children) as well as country to which venture returned.

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES  
FEBRUARY 2024**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 3.4: Border Enforcement**

**AE24-686 - Maritime Interceptions and Returns - Returned People Smuggling Ventures**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Please provide an update of the earlier table “Returned People Smuggling Ventures”.

- a. Please indicate the mode of return for every venture.
- b. Please also include the total number of persons returned (and the number of children) as well as country to which venture returned.

*Answer:*

**Overview of Returned People Smuggling Ventures to 29 February 2024**

The total number includes all persons on board the returned venture. Where applicable, the number of adults and children included within the total number is shown in brackets. These individuals were returned to either Indonesia, Sri Lanka or Vietnam.

Number	Date	Total Number of People on Board	Summary
<b>Financial Year 2013 – 2014</b>			
1	December 2013	49 (32 adults, 17 children)	Turnback
2	December 2013	50 (42 adults, 8 children)	Turnback
3	December 2013	40 (36 adults, 4 children)	Turnback
4	January 2014	47 (34 adults, 13 children)	Assisted Return
5	January 2014	27 (23 adults, 4 children)	Turnback
6	January 2014	58 (56 adults, 2 children)	Turnback
7	February 2014	38 (35 adults, 3 children)	Turnback
8	February 2014	28 (26 adults, 2 children)	Turnback
9	May 2014	20 adults	Turnback
10	May 2014	3 adults	Turnback

11	May 2014	3 adults	Turnback
<b>Financial Year 2014 - 2015</b>			
12	July 2014	41 (32 adults, 9 children)	Takeback
13	September 2014	10 adults	Assisted Return
14	November 2014	37 (31 adults, 6 children)	Takeback
15	January 2015	3 adults	Assisted Return
16	February 2015	4 adults	Takeback
17	March 2015	17 (14 adults, 3 children)	Turnback
18	April 2015	46 (24 adults, 22 children)	Takeback
19	May 2015	71 adults	Assisted Return
<b>Financial Year 2015 - 2016</b>			
20	July 2015	46 (28 adults, 18 children)	Takeback
21	August 2015	27 adults	Turnback
22	November 2015	3 adults	Assisted Return
23	November 2015	17 adults	Turnback
24	February 2016	5 adults	Takeback
25	March 2016	8 adults	Assisted Return
26	May 2016	12 (10 adults, 2 children)	Takeback
27	May 2016	3 adults	Assisted Return
28	June 2016	21 (17 adults, 4 children)	Takeback
<b>Financial Year 2016 - 2017</b>			
29	August 2016	6 adults	Takeback
30	March 2017	25 adults	Takeback
31	June 2017	6 adults	Takeback
<b>Financial Year 2017 - 2018</b>			
32	December 2017	29 (27 adults, 2 children)	Takeback
33	June 2018	10 adults	Turnback

<b>Financial Year 2018 - 2019</b>			
34	September 2018	17 (15 adults, 2 children)	Takeback
35	May 2019	20 (17 adults, 3 children)	Takeback
<b>Financial Year 2019 - 2020</b>			
36	July 2019	5 adults	Takeback
37	August 2019	13 adults	Takeback
38	January 2020	8 adults	Turnback
<b>Financial Year 2020-2021 – nil ventures</b>			
<b>Financial Year 2021-2022</b>			
39	May 2022	12 (12 adult males)	Takeback
40	June 2022	15 (15 adult males)	Takeback
41	June 2022	23 (22 adult males, 1 adult female)	Takeback
42	June 2022	41 (28 adult males, 6 adult females, 7 children)	Takeback
43	June 2022	46 (35 adults males, 8 adult females, 3 children)	Takeback
<b>Financial Year 2022-2023</b>			
44	August 2022	46 (46 adult males)	Takeback
45	December 2022	16 (9 adult males, 3 adult females, 4 children)	Turnback
46	January 2023	10 (10 adult males)	Turnback
47	May 2023	41 (35 adult males, 3 adult females, 3 children)	Takeback
<b>Financial Year 2023-2024 – nil returned ventures as at 29 February 2024</b>			