

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/037) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Seselja (L&CA 99) asked:

Senator SESELJA: What proportion of those arrivals on those boats would have been children?

[...]

Mr Bowles: I do not have the figures for children. Roughly, though, about 10 per cent were unaccompanied minors, probably about the mid-30 per cent were families and the balance, roughly 50 per cent, were single adult males. That is in rough percentages.

Senator SESELJA: Of the 8,000 to 10,000 that would have arrived last year in a similar period, we are talking certainly about over 1,000 children—but we do not know exactly how many.

Mr Bowles: We can probably find out how many arrived, Senator, but I do not have that figure to hand.

Answer:

According to DIBP operational data at time of port arrival there were 1318 arrivals under the age of 18 between 1 July 2013 and 30 May 2014.