

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/116) - legacy Caseload - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator Reynolds, Linda (L&CA 30) asked:

Senator REYNOLDS: Of the 8,000 IMA children that have arrived in the last few years, how many are now living in the community in Australia; where have they gone; and what support is now provided to them and to their families?

Mr Pezzullo: It would probably be best if we answer that in two parts. On Ms Briscoe's side of the shop, if the families of which these children are members have been given bridging arrangements or are in some form of community detention, they would be out in the community. Whether Ms Briscoe has some data on that I do not know; we might have to take it on notice. But how many have been processed? Of that, I think the number that we sum to was around 8,000. Some would have, again, permanent protection under previous arrangements, so they would be living in the community and they would be the subject of community resettlement as any permanent protection visa holder would be. More recent arrivals would be in the TPV and/or SHEV pathway that we spoke about yesterday. I might just ask Ms Briscoe perhaps to answer the first part of the question and then perhaps Mr Manthorpe might have further information on those in the processing system.

Ms Miller: As at 30 April, there are 1,092 IMA and non-IMA children in community detention.

Mr Pezzullo: Senator, you asked about the pattern of where they are living. Unless Ms Miller has some detail, we might have to take that more fine-grained question on notice.

Senator REYNOLDS: That is fine, I am happy for that to go on notice,

Answer:

As at 30 April 2015, there were 1085 illegal maritime arrival (IMA) children and 7 non-IMA children living in community detention.

As at 30 April 2015, there were 3004 IMA children in the community on a Bridging E Visa (BVE).

Between 31 December 2008 and 30 April 2015, 2925 IMA children had been granted a substantive visa (2923 Permanent Protection visas and two Temporary Protection visas).

The Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) programme provides support and assistance to people in the community (in community detention or on Bridging visas) as they seek to resolve their immigration status, and also to those who have been found to be refugees and are transitioning to mainstream services in the Australian community.

The SRSS programme provides varying levels of support services depending on the asylum seekers needs. Support services may include:

- residential/in-home care for unaccompanied minors

- case worker support
- income support and rent assistance payments paid fortnightly at a percentage of the equivalent Centrelink rate (administered by the Department of Human Services on behalf of the department)
- access to schooling for school aged children and English language classes for adults
- transitional and emergency accommodation
- assistance in sourcing long-term accommodation
- orientation into the community
- assistance to access health services generally commensurate with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)
- mental health and counselling services (including for torture and trauma)

Enhanced support arrangements are available to IMA families with children aged 10 and under who are awaiting processing of their protection claims and are exiting immigration detention (including community detention) on Bridging visas. The purpose of the package is to enable families to be more self-sustaining and resilient in the community. Support includes:

- up to three months transitional support, including assistance to secure independent accommodation, education, health services and income support; followed by
- up to three months of higher level case worker support for the family's first three months in independent accommodation; followed by
- ongoing case worker and income support where required.