

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/050) - Turn-backs - individual transferred to an RPC - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 108) asked:

Senator McKIM: Could you clarify for me, Air Vice Marshal, please? There are 765 people.

Air Vice Marshal Osborne: Seven hundred and sixty-five people have been returned on 30 ventures. They are in addition to another person who was not returned and was taken to an RPC.

Mr Pezzullo: Which would make it 776.

Senator McKIM: Can you tell us the nationality of that person?

Air Vice Marshal Osborne: Not off the top of my head; I would have to take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: Okay, thank you, and the relevant dates, if you would, Air Vice Marshal—that is, when were they intercepted at sea, the reasons that they were not included in the turn-back or the take-back or whatever happened to that vessel, the date or dates of any transfer, and the RPC that they were transferred to. Do you know that off the top off your head? Was it Manus or Nauru?

Mr Pezzullo: We will take it on notice because I am not sure. Because they are intercepted at sea under the auspices of Operation Sovereign Borders, I will need to test to my own level of satisfaction that we can disclose those matters consistent with the claim of public-interest immunity.

Senator McKIM: So take all that on notice, and the date. Your response to the question you took on notice from me last time said that they had been at an RPC but then had gone back—

Air Vice Marshal Osborne: Had returned home.

Senator McKIM: returned home—so the date of their return home and the country to which they returned and any information you have about what happened to them after their return to that country.

Mr Pezzullo: We will look at all of those matters on notice.

Answer:

In 2014, an individual was transferred to Manus RPC shortly after interception, on the basis that further assessments of their claims were required. This individual voluntarily elected to return home to Sri Lanka.