

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(58) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett asked:

(1) The number of custody occurrences with minors unaccompanied by a parent at port of entry or apprehension, broken down by: (i) Financial year, (ii) Gender, (iii) Age at arrival, (iv) Nationality, (v) Language, (vi) Number or percentage represented, nominating type of representative (lawyer/migration agent/none), (vii) Type of detention/care arrangements (secure, shelter, group home, foster care, residential treatment facility, etc.), (viii) Location of cases across the country (that is, the geographical spread of cases across Australia), (ix) Outcome of case (release to relative, deportation, etc.), (x) Length of time in custody.

(2) The number of minors remaining in custody after grant of asylum due to MIMIA appeal of such grant, broken down by: (i) Financial year, (ii) Nationality, (iii) Nature of appeal.

(3) The number of minors removed without a parent accompanying them, broken down by: (i) Financial year, (ii) Gender, (iii) Age at deportation, (iv) Nationality, (v) Custodian prior to removal (ACM/DIMIA, relative, state government care, etc.), (vi) City and Country to which they were removed.

Answer:

- (1) i. Compiled data is only available in relation to those unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who were, or are, in some form of immigration detention between 1 January 2002 and 2 April 2004. Records prior to this time do not exist in a format that would enable the requested information to be extrapolated. Compiling data prior to this time, therefore, would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

During the period 1 January 2002 to 2 April 2004, 109 UAMs are recorded as having been or being in immigration detention. Of these:

- 59 were unauthorised boat and air arrivals (including overseas boat arrivals and those arriving at excised off-shore places);
- five were apprehended for fishing illegally in Australian waters;
- 45 were located in the Australian community and had overstayed their visas or breached visa conditions.

- ii. The 109 UAMs comprise 15 females and 94 males.

- iii. Of the 109 UAMs, nine were aged between seven and 12; 29 were aged between 13 and 15; and 71 were aged 16 or 17.
- iv. A breakdown of numbers cannot be provided because, in relation to most nationalities, the numbers are low enough to identify individual detainees. The detainees concerned include nationals of Afghanistan, Albania, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Peoples Republic of China, Russia, Rwanda, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.
- v. Nominated and identified languages include Arabic, Dari, English, Farsi, Indonesian, Korean, Malaysian, Mandarin and Chinese dialect, Mongolian, Pashto, Russian, Swahili, Somali, Tamil, Thai and Vietnamese.
- vi. Information relating to this question is not readily available and would, therefore, require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to collate.
- vii. As at 2 April 2004, of the 109 people who arrived as UAMs, 38 have been granted a substantive visa and 50 have been removed from Australia or resettled in another country. Of the remaining 21 people, 8 have since turned 18 and are held in immigration detention as adults, four UAMs are accommodated in detention centres and nine UAMs are in varying types of foster care arrangements.
- viii. Due to the small number of UAMs in immigration detention centres and alternative detention arrangements, providing the geographical spread of such cases may lead to the identification of individuals and, therefore, cannot be provided.
- ix. As at 2 April 2004, the visa processing status of the 109 UAMs shows that 11 are available for removal from Australia, four have outstanding visa claims with DIMIA, six have outstanding judicial proceedings, 38 have been granted a substantive visa and 50 have been removed from Australia or resettled in another country.
- x. The majority (80%) of those who arrived as UAMs during the period of 1 January 2002 and 2 April 2004 have subsequently departed Australia or have been granted a visa. The length of time in immigration detention has ranged from one day to 46 months. The majority of whom have been in immigration detention, including foster care arrangements or in the company of extended family members, for less than six months.

- (2) None. The Minister did not file any appeals during the period 1 January 2002 to 2 April 2004 from any decisions of the Refugee Review Tribunal in favour of the applicant where the applicant was an unaccompanied minor.
- (3) i. Of the 109 UAMs identified in our response to part (1), fifty were removed from Australia or resettled in another country.

In addition, it has happened that a minor who arrived in Australia with a parent was removed without a parent accompanying them. In any instance where a minor is removed without a parent accompanying them, suitable arrangements are put in place with a relative or guardian in the destination country prior to their removal.

- ii. The 50 UAMs removed from Australia or resettled in another country comprised eight females and 42 males.
- iii. Of these 50 UAMs, one was aged between seven and 12, six were aged between 13 and 15, 33 were aged 16 or 17, and nine were aged 18 or older at the time of removal. The remaining UAM, who was aged between seven and 12, was resettled in another country.
- iv. A breakdown of numbers cannot be provided because, in relation to most nationalities, the numbers are low and may lead to the identification of individual detainees. The detainees concerned, however, include nationals of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Peoples Republic of China, Russia, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uzbekistan.
- v. A breakdown of individual detention arrangements, including custodianship, cannot be provided because the number of individuals involved is low and may lead to their identification.
- vi. A breakdown of the cities and countries to which these UAMs were removed cannot be provided because the number of individuals involved is low and may lead to their identification. The majority of individuals, however, were returned to their country of origin.

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ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(59) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett asked:

The number of minors as primary applicants identified as victims of trafficking applying for visas, broken down by:

- (i) Financial year.
- (ii) Gender.
- (iii) Age at application.
- (iv) Nationality.
- (v) Nature of visa sought.
- (vi) Nature of appeal (if any).
- (vii) Case outcome.
- (viii) Length of time between application and decision.
- (ix) Length of time between appeal and decision.
- (x) Present location of child.

Answer:

DIMIA is aware of one identified suspected trafficking victim under the age of 18 who applied as a primary visa applicant. She applied as a primary applicant offshore for travel to Australia. No substantive visa applications were lodged onshore.

F/Y	1994-1995
Gender	Female
Age	14
Nationality	Thai
Visa	Tourist
Nature of appeal	None
Outcome	Granted to travel to Australia
Time application to decision	Unknown
Time decision to appeal	Not Applicable
Current location	Offshore

Following location at a brothel by NSW Compliance on 11 June 1995, the suspected victim was removed to DIMIA offices at The Rocks and immediate contact made with the NSW Police. Within half an hour of this contact a representative from the Child Protection Unit of the Department of Community Services contacted DIMIA and recommended that the suspected victim be accommodated at Villawood IDC (VIDC).

Arrangements were put in place to ensure that the minor could not be contacted at the VIDC by any persons connected with the brothel.

DIMIA officers informed the Thai Consul on 12 June 1995. The Thai Consul subsequently made contact with the suspected victim and assisted in her return to Thailand.

Thai authorities successfully prosecuted three offenders as a result of this matter on charges of luring an underage girl into prostitution. All were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. The Thai Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by one offender in April 2003.

The matter was not referred to the AFP as it pre-dated the creation of Commonwealth offences relating to slavery, sexual servitude and deceptive recruiting for sexual services. The AFP's responsibility for investigating people trafficking-related offences in the sex industry commenced with the enactment of the *Criminal Code Amendment (Slavery and Sexual Servitude) Act 1999*.

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ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(60) Output 1.4: Safe Haven

Senator Bartlett (L&C 53) asked:

You had 28 people on the 786 visa at the last estimates in November, so you have had a few add-ons there as well. Are they new arrivals or are they people being reclassified?

Answer.

As advised at the November estimates, there were 41 persons who held subclass 786 (Temporary Humanitarian Concern) visas. Of this number 28 were from Kosovo, 7 from East Timor, 2 from Palestine, 3 from Iran and 1 from Afghanistan.

As at February 2004, 36 persons held a subclass 786 visa. Of this number, 24 are from Kosovo, 7 from East Timor, 2 from Palestine and 3 from Iran.

There has therefore been a reduction in the number of subclass 786 visa holders since the November estimates.

The number of 28 persons referred to in the November 2003 Estimates related to the number of Kosovars on subclass 786 visas.

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ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(61) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 12) asked:

Provide a breakdown of the forward estimates for running costs for Christmas Island, Manus Island and Nauru.

Answer:

The running costs for the Offshore Asylum Seeker Management program are quarantined from the rest of the department's budget and managed at the output level. The Department does not allocate budgets to specific facilities. Actual expenditure will depend very much on the level of arrivals given the history of these provisions being substantially under expended. However, an indicative allocation, taking into account likely outcomes for 2003-04, would be around \$18m for Christmas Island, \$3m for Manus Island, \$36m for Nauru and \$1.5m in indirect costs.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(62) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 54) asked [in response to a previous answer that 379 persons had been resettled to Australia from the Manus and Nauru Offshore Processing Centres]:

Of those people who came to Australia, how many are no longer in Australia?

Answer:

As at 17 February 2004, of the 379 people who resettled in Australia from the Offshore Processing Centres, records indicate that none has left Australia.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(63) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 56) asked:

How many Chubb Security staff are currently on Nauru?

Answer:

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has advised that there were 51 Chubb Security employees on Nauru as at 26 February 2004. The number, in part, reflects shift arrangements.

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ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(64) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 57) asked for details of detainee movement from onshore-offshore detention to Nauru: dates, gender, country of origin, transferring from what detention facilities onshore and offshore.

Answer:

Tables follow which outline movements from Christmas Island IDC to the Nauru OPC, and movements from onshore to the Nauru OPC.

These figures do not include individuals who were brought to Australia to attend court hearings or for medical reasons and were then resettled in Australia without returning to the Nauru OPC.

Besides the movements outlined in the tables, no other people have been transferred to the Nauru OPC from onshore detention, offshore detention, or the Manus OPC.

Persons brought onshore from Nauru & Manus OPCs then transferred to Nauru

Subject	Date of Entry to Aust (from Nauru unless otherwise indicated)	Date of Return to Nauru	Reason for tnf onshore	Sex	Nationality	Address while onshore
1	10/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
2	01/10/02	05/10/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
3	18/06/02	12/09/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
4	27/09/02	07/10/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
5	Born onshore	12/09/02	Medical	Female	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
6	03/09/02	23/09/02	Accompanying	Female	Iraqi	Wesley Hospital, Brisbane
7	11/10/02	07/11/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	Beleura Private Hospital, Mornington Vic
8	10/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
9	10/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
10	24/06/03	18/08/03	Medical	Female	Iraqi	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
11	27/09/02	07/10/02	Legal	Male	Iranian	Perth IDC
12 1 st transfer	27/09/02	07/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
12 2 nd transfer	2/11/02	11/11/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
13	08/10/02	20/10/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
14	29/07/03 from Manus	22/01/04	Medical	Male	Iraqi	Baxter IDF
15	18/06/02	12/09/02	Accompanying	Male	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
16 1 st transfer	04/10/02	25/11/02	Medical	Male	Palestinian	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
16 2 nd transfer	06/06/03	23/06/03	Medical	Male	Palestinian	Beleura Private Hospital, Mornington Vic

Persons brought onshore from Nauru & Manus OPCs then transferred to Nauru - continued

Subject	Date of Entry to Aust (from Nauru unless otherwise indicated)	Date of Return to Nauru	Reason for tnf onshore	Sex	Nationality	Address while onshore
16 3 rd transfer	08/08/03	27/08/03	Medical	Male	Palestinian	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
16 4 th transfer	07/10/03	13/10/03	Medical	Male	Palestinian	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
16 5 th transfer	25/11/03	11/12/03	Medical	Male	Palestinian	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
16 6 th transfer	17/02/04	26/02/04	Medical	Male	Palestinian	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
17	28/05/02	12/09/02	Medical	Female	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
18 1 st transfer	19/03/02	20/05/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	Wesley Hospital, Brisbane
18 2 nd transfer	18/10/02	24/10/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	Wesley Hospital, Brisbane
19	10/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
20	10/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
21	08/10/02	20/10/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	Beleura Private Hospital, Mornington Vic
22	25/07/03	18/08/03	Medical	Male	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
23	29/04/03	22/05/03	Medical	Female	Iraqi	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
24	05/02/02	07/02/02	Medical	Male	Iraqi	Royal Brisbane Hospital
25	26/11/02	05/12/02	Medical	Male	Iranian	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
26	28/05/02	12/09/02	Accompanying	Male	Afghan	VIC IDC Maribyrnong
27	03/09/02	23/09/02	Medical	Female	Iraqi	Wesley Hospital, Brisbane
28	17/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth Mercure Hotel
29	03/09/02	30/09/02	Medical	Male	Afghan	Wesley Hospital, Brisbane

30	10/09/02	22/09/02	Legal	Male	Afghan	Perth IDC
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362 Persons transferred directly from Christmas Island to Nauru

Date of Arrival in Nauru	Sex	Afghan	Bangladeshi	Iranian	Pakistani
21/12/01 (142)	Male	141			
	Female			1	
	Total	141		1	
31/12/01 (177)	Male	133		7	2
	Female	31		3	1
	Total	164		10	3
1/02/02 (40)	Male	21			
	Female	19			
	Total	40			
19/03/03 (3)	Male	2	1		

53 Persons transferred from Christmas Island to Nauru and then to Manus*

Sex	Nat	Arrive Manus	Depart Manus	Arrive Nauru
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Female	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		08/05/02	08/05/02
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male**	Iraq		28/07/03	22/01/04
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Female	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02

Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Sex	Nat	Arrive Manus	Depart Manus	Arrive Nauru
Female	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Female	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Female	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Female	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male	Iraq		8/05/02	8/05/02
Male			26/09/02	26/09/02
Male			26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iran		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male			26/09/02	26/09/02
Male			26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male			26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iran		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male			26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iran		26/09/02	26/09/02
Male	Iraq		26/09/02	26/09/02

*52 person were transferred directly from Manus to Nauru and one was transferred from Manus to the Baxter IDC and then to Nauru

**This person is also included in the table - Persons brought onshore from Nauru & Manus OPCs then transferred to Nauru

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(65) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 58) asked:

Has there been any cost to Australia for New Zealand accepting refugees from Manus Island and Nauru – for example, transportation, any resettlement housing, English language training and matters of that like?

Answer:

The Government spent about \$170m on the Offshore Processing Centres (OPCs) in Manus and Nauru from their opening in 2001 until December 2003. The figure includes amounts paid to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for costs incurred by IOM for resettlement transfers to New Zealand from the Centres. Direct payments of about \$100,000 have been made on invoices raised by the New Zealand Government for transport and associated costs and for the engagement of a community worker in New Zealand to work with new arrivals from the Centres.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(66) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 58) asked:

What was the number of people who required medical attention from the Nauruan medical facilities during the hunger strike?

Answer:

According to information received from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 44 protesters attended the Republic of Nauru (RON) Hospital during the hunger strike protest from 10 December 2003 until 8 January 2004, involving 118 separate admissions.

Protesters could nominate to go to the hospital at any time, where food and water was available, and this was encouraged. The Australian Government Health Delegation that visited Nauru soon after the suspension of the hunger strike reported that the asylum seekers, who were met by the team, seemed generally well and none showed obvious signs consistent with recent prolonged lack of nutrition.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(67) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Sherry (L&C 59) asked:

In relation to the responsibility of Australia for detainees on Nauru and Manus Island, provide a copy of the Minister's ABC interview.

Answer:

The interview was carried by Radio National at 17:25 on 18 December 2003. A copy of the transcript is attached.

Transcript

Station: **RADIO NATIONAL** Date: **18/12/2003**
Program: **RADIO NATIONAL'S PM** Time: **05:25 PM**
Compere: **MARK COLVIN** Summary ID: **C00012565400**

Item: **THE IMMIGRATION MINISTER AMANDA VANSTONE SAYS THE SITUATION ON NAURU IS NOT AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION RUNS THE DETENTION CENTRES ON THE ISLAND.**

INTERVIEW: SENATOR AMANDA VANSTONE, IMMIGRATION MINISTER

Demographics:	Male 16+	Female 16+	All people	ABs	GBs
	40300	27200	68000	27700	34200

COMPERE: The Immigration Minister, Amanda Vanstone, says the situation on Nauru is not Australia's responsibility because the IOM runs the detention facilities on the island. Senator Vanstone speak - spoke to Peta Donald, who began by asking the minister about claims the children were being urged to take part in the protest.

MINISTER AMANDA VANSTONE: The last advice I have is that children are not participating, that there's a number of women and children who have been sitting with the protestors, but have not indicated that they're joining the protest. I further understand that some people working in the centre have overheard remarks to the effect that the women and children

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SYDNEY
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03 9348 9191

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07 3259 2100

CANBERRA
02 6124 5200

PERTH
08 9228 5800

ADELAIDE
08 8362 2325

HOBART
03 6224 2000



ABs = Managers, administrators, professions. GBs = Grocery buyers.

Metro TV demographics are supplied by OzTAM, Radio and Non-Metro TV demographics are supplied by ACNielsen

(*) – Indicates unknown spelling or phonetic spelling.

may eventually join in, and I certainly hope that's not the case. I would be appalled if that happened.

REPORTER: Do you still believe that this is not Australia's problem?

AMANDA VANSTONE: I haven't said it's not Australia's problem. What I've said is that the institute - sorry, International Organisation of Migration is doing a tremendous job running the centre in Nauru ...

REPORTER: It doesn't sound like it though - 35 people on hunger strike sounds like a situation that's getting out of control, wouldn't you say?

AMANDA VANSTONE: With respect, with respect, over 400 people have already returned to their home country with Australian government assistance. These are people who've been judged by UNHCR standards not to be refugees. They were obviously unhappy about that, and they are refusing to accept that outcome, that they are not refugees.

And in order to try and bludgeon the international media and the Australian government into giving them the migration outcome they want, they are engaging in a very, very unattractive protest, and adding great stress, I think, to the staff of the International Organisation for Migration that are managing the centre.

REPORTER: Well it's a very concerning situation, wouldn't you say - 35 people on hunger strike for nine - and now a strike that's lasted for nine days.

AMANDA VANSTONE: Well, no one likes to see anyone engaging in a hunger strike. No one likes to see that. But the plain facts are, these people have been judged either by the UNHCR or by Australian officials - but by UNHCR standards - not to be refugees.

We are not talking about refugees here. We're talking about people who wanted to come in the back door to Australia, and have been caught out and cannot come. And they are simply refusing to go home. They're not being - I think it's wrong, in fact, to say they're being detained on Nauru. They can go home anytime they like. Furthermore, we'll assist them to do so.

REPORTER: Well do you think - do you understand a reluctance to - of - on the part of these people, ethnic Hazaras many of them, I understand - to return to Afghanistan at the moment?

AMANDA VANSTONE: Well, I - just let me make a point to you. I'm advised that over 420 people have already returned, that there are Hazaras in significant positions in Afghanistan, and there should be no reason for these people not to return.

You see the point is someone in need of protection is given it. Someone who is a refugee, who needs

protection, is given that protection. You've gone to the very heart of this matter - these people have been judged not to be refugees.

REPORTER:

Well, how are you - what are you going to do if this situation doesn't resolve itself, if this hunger strike continues and the - you know, the lives of these people are at risk?

AMANDA VANSTONE: Well, let me make it clear that the International Organisation for Migration that is providing the services on the island is doing a tremendous job. They're monitoring the situation very closely. People are being taken to the Nauru hospital. But strangely, having had treatment, some of them are returning to protest again.

But the facts are, these people are not refugees and they are trying to bludgeon the international media and the Australia media and the Australian government into allowing them to come to Australia even though they are not refugees.

COMPERE:

Senator Amanda Vanstone, the Immigration Minister, talking to Peta Donald.

* * **END** * *

TRANSCRIPT PRODUCED BY MEDIA MONITORS
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