

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0316) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Why was no detention statistical report published for November 2012? Was it because that month recorded the highest detention population on record, exceeding 8400?

Answer:

The immigration detention population is highly dynamic and the statistics within the Immigration Detention Statistics Summary are sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems. In order to ensure the report is accurate, the department undertakes a range of quality assurance processes prior to publication. The time taken to publish the report can vary from month to month depending on the number of data irregularities identified during the quality assurance process.

The 30 November 2012 report was finalised and became available for publication at around the same time as the finalisation of checks for the December 2012 report. As it represented a more recent snapshot of people in detention, the department decided to publish the 31 December 2012 report.