

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE11/0306) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash asked:

(1) How many IMA detainees are currently awaiting removal to their country of nationality, in total and by nationality?

(2) On average, how many days have they been waiting, and what is the maximum time any individual has been waiting?

*Answer:*

(1) As at 20 May 2011, there were no IMA detainees eligible for involuntary removal from Australia. However, as of that date, the Department was planning the voluntary removal of 12 IMA passengers (11 Iranian and one Iraqi) and ten IMA crew members (five Indonesians and five Vietnamese) who had requested removal from Australia.

(2) As at 20 May 2011, the average number of days an IMA seeking voluntary removal had spent in detention after requesting removal was 15 days.

As at 20 May 2011, the maximum time an IMA seeking voluntary removal had spent in detention after requesting removal was 77 days. These timeframes are affected by a number of factors including the length of time to obtain a travel document from the relevant Embassy.