

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0216) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

How many asylum seekers who have been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal have voluntarily left Australia in 2010-11 and 2011-12? How many are awaiting removal? On average how long have those awaiting removal been held in detention following their negative decision?

Answer:

In the 2010-2011 program year, 33 Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) passengers and crew members were voluntarily removed from Australia having been refused refugee status. In the 2011-2012 program year, as at 30 September 2011, 20 IMA passengers were voluntarily removed from Australia having been refused refugee status.

As at 30 September 2011, the Department was planning the voluntary removal of six IMA passengers, two of whom had been refused refugee status. A further four IMA passengers were awaiting involuntary removal as they had no ongoing matters before the department or the courts.

As at 30 September 2011, of the six IMAs who had requested removal, one had been refused refugee status at primary stage and one had been refused at review stage. The average number of days these six IMA clients have spent in detention since signing a request for removal is 43 days. The remaining four clients were either screened out of the protection process as they had not raised any claims under the Refugees Convention; or had raised claims but chose to depart before they were assessed. The average number of days these IMA clients had spent in detention since signing a request for removal is 33 days.

For the clients awaiting involuntary removal, the average number of days spent in detention after receiving the outcome of their International Treaties Obligations Assessment (ITOA) is 35 days.