

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (SE11/0267) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to the unlawful non-citizens that have been located in 2010-11, and the year to date as a result of compliance activities, how many have been removed and at what cost? How does this compare with activity in each of the last three years?

*Answer:*

From 1 July to 30 September 2011, 3 915 unlawful non-citizens were located by the Department as a result of a range of compliance activities. As at 30 September 2011, 219 of these clients have been removed.

During the 2010-11 program year, 13 831 unlawful non-citizens were located by the Department as a result of a range of compliance activities. As at 30 September 2011, 1 143 of these clients have been removed.

The following table provides the number of clients located in each program year, and how many of those clients have been removed as at 30 September 2011.

	Locations	Removals (as at 30 September 2011)
2011-12 (Jul-Sep)	3 915	219
2010-11	13 831	1 143
2009-10	14 169	1 085
2008-09*	12 230	1 135
2007-08*	10 925	1 369

The number of unlawful non-citizens located in any given program year who subsequently are removed from Australia increases over time. Once located, an unlawful non-citizen may lodge a visa application or initiate other action such as litigation which can prolong their stay in Australia.

The average costs per removal have remained relatively constant across the current and previous years, being in the vicinity of \$4,000\*\* per client. There are a range of variables that affect removal costs, including return country destination distance (and airfares), travel documents as well as security, medical, or departmental escort costs (airfares, accommodation and allowances).

\* As a result of updates to Departmental systems, the location figures provided differ from the *Annual Report 2008-09* and *Annual Report 2007-08*.

\*\* Is based on departmental removal supplier costs averaged out across the total removals conducted during each financial year. This figure does not include detention and case management costs.