

Question on notice no. 48

Portfolio question number: SE17/048

2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio

Senator Murray Watt: asked the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 23 October 2017—

Mr Price: I don't want to go too much into it; however, history plays an important part. Historically, if there's crew on board, in the case of—I can generalise here—livestock vessels, they normally have a number of low-skilled workers on board to feed the animals on the export-bound leg, and we've found cases where those crew members have arrived on the coast and they have then jumped ship. So we tend to focus our attention on those vessels as well. That's just an example.

Senator WATT: Are there particular countries or destinations where this has been a particularly big problem?

Mr Price: We've had examples from Pakistan, because of the export market of livestock to those countries, so you'd particularly have that. Equally we've had Chinese deserters predominantly, but I'd rather we wait to get to the figures to provide a breakdown as you've requested.

Answer —

The following data has been compiled from Departmental records.

During the 2017-18 financial year (current to 1 November 2017) the majority of deserters were identified as being nationals of the Peoples Republic of China and Pakistan. There were a small number of deserters from Ethiopia.

During the 2016-17 financial year the majority of deserters were identified as being nationals of the Peoples Republic of China. There were a small number of deserters from:

- Vietnam
- Bangladesh
- Turkey
- Indonesia
- Pakistan

During the 2015-16 deserters were identified as being nationals of the following countries:

- Peoples Republic of China

- Vietnam
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Turkey
- Philippines
- Myanmar
- Ethiopia