

**Question on notice no. 117**

**Portfolio question number: SE17/118**

**2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio**

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 23 October 2017—

1. Who many vessels have been intercepted to date?
2. How many individuals intercepted said they feared persecution?
3. How many raised international protection claims?
4. How many were assessed to be in need of international protection?
5. How many on-water assessments have been completed?
6. What is the average length of a screening interview?
7. What is the average time from the screening interview to the decision to return?
8. What is the average time that an intercepted person is held at sea?

**Answer —**

Since the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders, there have been 31 vessels intercepted with 771 individuals on board. All individuals intercepted are assessed on whether they engage Australia's protection obligations.

All information provided by individuals intercepted at sea is appropriately considered, consistent with Australia's international obligations. Interviews conducted with individuals intercepted at sea vary significantly in length, subject to the nature and the detail of the claims they put forward. The time taken for each interview is not tracked.

The time that an intercepted person is held at sea varies significantly and depends (amongst other things) on the location of the interception and the location of the return.

Refer to BE17/050 for further detail.