

**Question on notice no. 686**

**Portfolio question number: AE24-686**

**2023-24 Additional estimates**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio**

**Senator Nick McKim:** asked the Australian Border Force on 12 February 2024—

Please provide an update of the earlier table "Returned People Smuggling Ventures".

- a. Please indicate the mode of return for every venture.
- b. Please also include the total number of persons returned (and the number of children) as well as country to which venture returned.

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES  
FEBRUARY 2024**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Department of Home Affairs**

**Program 3.4: Border Enforcement**

**AE24-686 - Maritime Interceptions and Returns - Returned People Smuggling Ventures**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Please provide an update of the earlier table “Returned People Smuggling Ventures”.

- a. Please indicate the mode of return for every venture.
- b. Please also include the total number of persons returned (and the number of children) as well as country to which venture returned.

*Answer:*

**Overview of Returned People Smuggling Ventures to 29 February 2024**

The total number includes all persons on board the returned venture. Where applicable, the number of adults and children included within the total number is shown in brackets. These individuals were returned to either Indonesia, Sri Lanka or Vietnam.

| Number                            | Date          | Total Number of People on Board | Summary         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Financial Year 2013 – 2014</b> |               |                                 |                 |
| 1                                 | December 2013 | 49 (32 adults, 17 children)     | Turnback        |
| 2                                 | December 2013 | 50 (42 adults, 8 children)      | Turnback        |
| 3                                 | December 2013 | 40 (36 adults, 4 children)      | Turnback        |
| 4                                 | January 2014  | 47 (34 adults, 13 children)     | Assisted Return |
| 5                                 | January 2014  | 27 (23 adults, 4 children)      | Turnback        |
| 6                                 | January 2014  | 58 (56 adults, 2 children)      | Turnback        |
| 7                                 | February 2014 | 38 (35 adults, 3 children)      | Turnback        |
| 8                                 | February 2014 | 28 (26 adults, 2 children)      | Turnback        |
| 9                                 | May 2014      | 20 adults                       | Turnback        |
| 10                                | May 2014      | 3 adults                        | Turnback        |

|                                   |                |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 11                                | May 2014       | 3 adults                    | Turnback        |
| <b>Financial Year 2014 - 2015</b> |                |                             |                 |
| 12                                | July 2014      | 41 (32 adults, 9 children)  | Takeback        |
| 13                                | September 2014 | 10 adults                   | Assisted Return |
| 14                                | November 2014  | 37 (31 adults, 6 children)  | Takeback        |
| 15                                | January 2015   | 3 adults                    | Assisted Return |
| 16                                | February 2015  | 4 adults                    | Takeback        |
| 17                                | March 2015     | 17 (14 adults, 3 children)  | Turnback        |
| 18                                | April 2015     | 46 (24 adults, 22 children) | Takeback        |
| 19                                | May 2015       | 71 adults                   | Assisted Return |
| <b>Financial Year 2015 - 2016</b> |                |                             |                 |
| 20                                | July 2015      | 46 (28 adults, 18 children) | Takeback        |
| 21                                | August 2015    | 27 adults                   | Turnback        |
| 22                                | November 2015  | 3 adults                    | Assisted Return |
| 23                                | November 2015  | 17 adults                   | Turnback        |
| 24                                | February 2016  | 5 adults                    | Takeback        |
| 25                                | March 2016     | 8 adults                    | Assisted Return |
| 26                                | May 2016       | 12 (10 adults, 2 children)  | Takeback        |
| 27                                | May 2016       | 3 adults                    | Assisted Return |
| 28                                | June 2016      | 21 (17 adults, 4 children)  | Takeback        |
| <b>Financial Year 2016 - 2017</b> |                |                             |                 |
| 29                                | August 2016    | 6 adults                    | Takeback        |
| 30                                | March 2017     | 25 adults                   | Takeback        |
| 31                                | June 2017      | 6 adults                    | Takeback        |
| <b>Financial Year 2017 - 2018</b> |                |                             |                 |
| 32                                | December 2017  | 29 (27 adults, 2 children)  | Takeback        |
| 33                                | June 2018      | 10 adults                   | Turnback        |

| <b>Financial Year 2018 - 2019</b>  |                |   |          |
|--|----------------|---|----------|
| 34   | September 2018 | 17 (15 adults, 2 children)                        | Takeback |
| 35   | May 2019       | 20 (17 adults, 3 children)                        | Takeback |
| <b>Financial Year 2019 - 2020</b>  |                |   |          |
| 36   | July 2019      | 5 adults  | Takeback |
| 37   | August 2019    | 13 adults   | Takeback |
| 38   | January 2020   | 8 adults  | Turnback |
| <b>Financial Year 2020-2021 – nil ventures</b>                                 |                |   |          |
| <b>Financial Year 2021-2022</b>  |                |   |          |
| 39   | May 2022       | 12 (12 adult males)                               | Takeback |
| 40   | June 2022      | 15 (15 adult males)                               | Takeback |
| 41   | June 2022      | 23 (22 adult males, 1 adult female)               | Takeback |
| 42   | June 2022      | 41 (28 adult males, 6 adult females, 7 children)  | Takeback |
| 43   | June 2022      | 46 (35 adults males, 8 adult females, 3 children) | Takeback |
| <b>Financial Year 2022-2023</b>  |                |   |          |
| 44   | August 2022    | 46 (46 adult males)                               | Takeback |
| 45   | December 2022  | 16 (9 adult males, 3 adult females, 4 children)   | Turnback |
| 46   | January 2023   | 10 (10 adult males)                               | Turnback |
| 47   | May 2023       | 41 (35 adult males, 3 adult females, 3 children)  | Takeback |
| <b>Financial Year 2023-2024 – nil returned ventures as at 29 February 2024</b> |                |   |          |