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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION (JSCM)**  
**INQUIRY INTO IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN AUSTRALIA**  
**44 QUESTIONS**

Responses from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship  
as at 28 October 2008

2. The number of immigration detainees held in each immigration detention facility for each year from 1988 – present (given that some detainees moved between centres will be represented twice).



Detainee Days at Immigration Detention Facilities – by Financial year from 1999-00 to 2007-08										
Detention Facility	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Community Detention	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,270 *	24,597 *	17,579 *	
IRPC Christmas Island	-	-	46,187	10,241	17,922	13,567	2,653	3,353	282	
IRPC Cocos (Keeling) Islands	-	-	15,161	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Maribyrnong IDC	26,590	25,844	26,172	26,041	24,393	25,470	20,019	15,435	16,619	
Northern IDC	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,451	31,801	19,648	
Perth IDC	11,090	9,672	11,905	12,812	7,621	8,746	8,531	4,191	5,265	
Baxter IDC	-	-	-	72,236	88,281	88,260	87,506	20,062	780	
Woomera	248,173	229,194	284,111	35,477	-	-	-	-	-	
Villawood IDC	112,111	114,883	143,394	184,632	179,913	187,586	109,733	82,611	70,247	
Curtin IDC	258,595	255,317	199,556	17,930	-	-	-	-	-	
Port Hedland IDC	267,231	198,802	133,854	51,473	28,633	-	-	-	-	
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,438	3,376	
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	338	1,632	
Woomera Housing Project	-	62	4,072	4,881	2,717	-	-	-	-	
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing #	-	-	-	-	5,663	9,763	2,713	3,518	271	
Port Hedland Immigration Residential Housing	-	-	-	148	293	-	-	-	-	
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	648	

\* This figure is based on the average weekly number of people in community detention.

# Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing closed in September 2007.

**5. For each type of immigration detention, what is the total number of days people have been detained during this period?**

Upon enquiry, the Committee Secretariat agreed to amend the period to the last three years. The total numbers of days people were detained during this period are as follows:

Total Days in Immigration Detention - July 2005 to June 2008	
Immigration Detention Centre	506,187
Community Detention	68,446
Immigration Residential Housing	16,286
Immigration Transit Accommodation	648

**35. What is the total number of people detained since community-based detention was introduced in 2005?**

- **by type of detention i.e. whether in detention facility, etc**
- **by status prior to detention e.g. whether unauthorised arrival, 'overstayed' visa, cancelled visa, foreign fisher.**

**By type of immigration detention –**

Movement of people in immigration detention between facilities and/or between types of detention introduces multiple-counting of individuals. Consequently such a breakdown of statistics cannot be relied upon as representative of immigration detention. An indication of relative usage of detention types may be obtained from the number of detention days by facility, provided in answer to Question 2.

**By status prior to immigration detention –**

The following table counts the number of people who entered immigration detention in the past three years, by status before being detained –

<b>Status prior to Immigration Detention</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
Overstayer	1,835	1,349	1,358
Foreign Fishers	2,879	1,439	1,232
Visa Cancellations	724	791	600
Unauthorised Air	719	589	426
Unauthorised Boat	93	100	37
Other *	637	790	970

\* Other includes people such as stowaways and ship deserters.

**41. Since community-based detention was introduced in 2005, how many people detained in residential housing and in community detention have:**

- **absconded or**
- **committed serious violations of conditions of detention?**

This information covers the period from the inception of the program in July 2005 until 22 September 2008.

Two Community Detention clients, out of a population of 244, have absconded since the program's inception in 2005. One client was located and has since departed Australia; the other client has not been located. There have been no serious violations of Community Detention conditions other than these two clients.

On 9 September 2008, one person, out of a population of 370, absconded from Immigration Residential Housing (IRH); he has not been located. In addition, there has been one serious disturbance at an IRH, which resulted in property damage.