

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (BE14/044) PROGRAMME – 2.3 and 2.4: Regional Cooperation

Senator Seselja (L&CA 117) asked:

Senator SESELJA: You mentioned returns as part of those discussions. How many illegal maritime arrivals have been returned to Sri Lanka since September 2013? Would there have been any returns?

Mr Bowles: I cannot remember specifically about September 2013.

Senator SESELJA: Perhaps you can take us through the period of time that you have got.

Mr Bowles: There have been approximately 1,500 since about October 2012. I can give accurate figures.

Senator SESELJA: Perhaps on notice you can give a bit of a breakdown over that period as to whether there was a spike at any time.

*Answer:*

The following table provides details of the number of returns and removals to Sri Lanka since October 2012.

<b>Sri Lankan IMA Returns and Removals</b>	<b>October 2012 – 26 May 2014</b>	<b>September 2013 – 26 May 2014</b>
Voluntary Removal from Australia	134	37
Involuntary Removal from Australia	1256	134
BVE Voluntary Return	89	60
OPC Return	43	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1522</b>	<b>234</b>