

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 06 June 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/033) - Interceptions/turn-backs - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 87) asked:

Senator McKIM: This might be one for you, Air Vice Marshal. Do you have a nationality breakdown of the 765 people?

Air Vice Marshal Osborne: Not to hand.

Senator McKIM: Would you be able to source that?

Air Vice Marshal Osborne: I will certainly have a look.

Senator McKIM: Could I ask you to take that question on notice—and also to which specific countries each of those people were returned. As I understand the evidence you have given, they may not actually be returned to their country of nationality; they may be returned to their country of departure. They are two slightly different—

Mr Pezzullo: Which is ordinarily the case with a turn-back; that is right.

Senator McKIM: Yes, that is why I am asking for the two different breakdowns: the nationality breakdown and also to which countries they were returned.

Answer:

The 765 persons returned include Sri Lankan, Vietnamese, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Iranian, Iraqi, Somali, Indian, Syrian, Albanian and Myanmar nationals. These individuals were returned to either Indonesia, Sri Lanka or Vietnam. A table detailing information about the returned people smuggling ventures has been provided, please refer to BE17/042. To preserve operational security, further details will not be disclosed.