

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE17/056) - Children in onshore detention - Average length of time in detention**

Senator Watt, Murray (L&CA 118) asked:

the table around when there were over 2,000 children in detention?

Mr Pezzullo: I was the head of Customs and Border Protection.

CHAIR: What was the average length of time these children, in those days, were in detention? Was it a day, a week, a month or years?

Mr Pezzullo: It would have been more than a few days, but certainly not years. I would have to take that on notice. You might recall earlier evidence that when we peaked in, from memory, July 2013 there were 1,992 children in detention. The average time that they were being turned around and then being put into alternative places of detention or community detention at that stage was reasonably rapid because, simply, places were at a premium. But I would be guessing, Senator. I would really want to take that on notice.

*Answer:*

As at COB 31 July 2013, there were 1,992 children in onshore detention. Of these children, the average length of time they were in onshore detention was 64 days.