

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(30) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett (L&C 33) asked:

Provide the number of visa cancellations due to identity fraud and the successful appeals against those cancellations.

Answer:

The Department has cancelled 27 Temporary Protection Visas (TPV) on identity fraud grounds, all of whom had claimed to be Afghans.

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(31) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett (L&C 34) asked:

On what legal basis did the Department refuse to provide confidential information to the RRT which, prima facie, was relevant for the purpose of section 418?

Answer:

The Department did not refuse to provide confidential information to the RRT for the purpose of section 418.

The Department did not consider the sources of the 'dob-ins' or the information contained in those 'dob-ins' formed a basis for the cancellation decision, which the RRT was considering. The information provided by these sources only assisted DIMIA staff in Pakistan with their investigations – it did not in itself provide the evidence relied on for the cancellation decision.

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(32) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 37) asked:

Provide details of the cost breakdowns where state government facilities are used (all states).

Answer:

DIMIA does not pay rent for State Government facilities, however a daily rate is paid for accommodation for each immigration detainee. DIMIA generally accesses state facilities for compliance and criminal deportees, and for detainees of behavioural concern in exceptional circumstances. The rates are reviewed on a regular basis and range between \$95 and \$546.54 per day per detainee depending on the State and location.

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(33) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 37) asked:

Provide the ongoing costs of operation on the forward estimates for all detention facilities.

Answer:

The Department has a funding allocation to cover the costs associated with running all detention activities. Forward estimates for each centre are not available, as the shifting caseload and cost pressures do not allow detailed forward allocations. Rather, costs for each centre are managed within an overall funding envelope. The allocation for detention is contained within the current forward estimates for Output 1.3 as demonstrated in the following table.

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
\$296.0M	\$298.4M	\$302.3M	\$309.4M

Detention costs vary from facility to facility because of a number of factors, including capacity, level of occupancy and location.

The costs of detention include payments made under contract, as well as departmental expenditure such as those for employees, travel, charters, maintenance, motor vehicles, telephones, interpreting costs, depreciation and other variable and administrative costs.

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(34) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 38) asked:

What are the forward estimate costs for Port Augusta?

Answer:

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice number 33 for the answer to this question.

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(35) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 39) asked:

Provide details of the one-off costs when a detention facility is closed.

Answer:

There is a range of costs associated with closure of a detention facility including contractual payments, as well as departmental costs such as those for employees, travel, transportation of detainee population, motor vehicles, interpreting costs, depreciation and other administrative costs. For example, the cost to close Curtin and Woomera IRPCs was \$0.7m and \$1.6m, respectively.

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(36) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 39) asked:

Provide the transitional costs from GEO to GSL.

Answer:

There was a range of costs incurred during the transition process. The costs cover contractual arrangements as well as departmental costs such as those for employees, travel, translating and other administrative costs. For example, as the transition of detention centres was a departmental priority, a dedicated team was established within DIMIA to manage this process. Each service provider also had staff dedicated to this process.

The final costs associated with the transition of detention centres from GEO to GSL management is expected to be around \$6m.

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(37) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 39) asked:

What is the total cost of management of detention facilities by GSL?

Answer:

The total cost of management of the detention facilities hinges on a number of factors including the number of open facilities, their level of occupation, capacity, contractual arrangements and location. The total estimated value of the contract with Global Solutions GSL (Australia) Pty Ltd is \$300M over the four-year life of the contract.

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(38) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 40) asked:

Provide the cost of detention per detainee per day for Port Hedland and Christmas Island, in respect of detention centres, and Baxter, Villawood, Maribyrnong and Perth, and residential housing projects at Port Hedland and Port Augusta.

Answer:

Detention costs vary from facility to facility because of a number of factors, including capacity, level of occupancy and location.

The costs of detention include payments made under contract, as well as departmental expenditure such as those for employees, travel, charters, maintenance, motor vehicles, telephones, interpreting costs, depreciation and other variable and administrative costs.

The daily detention costs for the current financial year to 29 February 2004 are shown in the table below.

Centres	Cost per Detainee Day
Villawood IDC	\$111
Maribyrnong IDC	\$248
Perth IDC	\$589
Port Hedland IRPC	\$286
Baxter IDF	\$310
Christmas Island IRPC	\$725
Port Augusta RHP	\$598
Port Hedland RHP	\$2229

Some figures above are inflated by one-off set up costs during the current financial year (eg. Port Augusta and Port Hedland RHPs) and transition costs associated with contractual movement from GEO to GSL.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(39) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 40) asked:

Provide the number of unauthorised arrivals currently in detention and as at 30 June 2003.

Answer:

The number of unauthorised boat and air arrivals as at 27 February 2004 and as at 30 June 2003 are included in the tables below.

Immigration Detainees by Arrival Type as at 27/02/2004

Centre	Unauthorised Boat	Offshore Boat arrival	Overstay	Unauthorised Air	Other Compliance	Total
Baxter IDF	175	2	5		11	193
Christmas Island IRPC	53					53
Port Hedland IRPC	53	6	2	6	4	71
Maribyrnong IDC	2	2	35	3	21	63
Villawood IDC	16		274	34	122	446
Perth IDC	4	1	7		13	25
RHPs	26		1	2	3	32
Other*	25	1	15	6	52	99
Total	354	12	339	51	226	982

Immigration Detainees by Arrival Type as at 30/06/2003

Centre	Unauthorised Boat	Offshore Boat arrival	Overstay	Unauthorised Air	Other Compliance	Total
Baxter IDF	291	2			8	301
Port Hedland IRPC	96	8	2	6	8	120
Maribyrnong IDC	2	1	25	3	22	53
Perth IDC	2		5		14	21
Villawood IDC	19	1	335	28	161	544
RHPs	8					8
Other*	24	1	19	6	214	264
Total	442	13	386	43	427	1311

*Other refers to other facilities sometimes used for immigration detention, such as alternative detention, correctional facilities, hospitals etc.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(40) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 41) asked:

Of those released since the beginning of this financial year, how many have applied for permanent protection and what is their country of origin? How many have received permanent protection and what is their country of origin? How many have applied for temporary protection and what is their country of origin? How many have received temporary protection and what is their country of origin? Of those released since 30 June – the beginning of the financial year – how many have received a bridging visa and what is their country of origin? How many individuals have been detained by DIMIA for the last four financial years and what is the breakdown of that figure by detention facility?

Answer:

A breakdown of the number of persons released since the beginning of the 2003-04 financial year is included at **ATTACHMENT A**. Also included in that breakdown is information on the applications, grants of visas and country of origin of those persons.

The number and location of persons detained in the last four financial years is included at **ATTACHMENT B**.

ATTACHMENT A

Table 1 shows the number of persons released from immigration detention by visa type (Temporary, Permanent or Bridging Visas). Table 1b shows the number of persons released from immigration detention who had applied for protection.

Subsequent tables included show the country of origin of the persons who applied for protection, who were granted Permanent Protection Visas (PPVs), Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Bridging Visas (BVs).

Notes:

- An applicant applies for a protection visa, both temporary and permanent. Whether the visa granted is temporary or permanent is determined by the eligibility criteria and the decision, not the application.
- Nationalities with less than 10 releases are not listed separately for privacy reasons.

Table 1

Total Releases from immigration detention by Release Type - 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/02/2004)

Release Type	Persons
PV (Permanent) Granted	13
PV (Temporary) Granted	57
BV Grant	746
Court-ordered release	9
Escaped	4
Removal	3074
Other	153
Total	4056

Table 1a

Total Releases from immigration detention by Release Type - "Other" By Release Reason - 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/02/2004)

Release Reason	Persons
Cancellation Overturned	30
Criminal Justice Visa	48
Not Unlawful	33
Permanent Substantive Granted	6
Temporary Substantive Granted	2
Transfer - Declared Country	3
Transfer - Into Police Custody	21
Transfer - Other Facility	6
Voluntary Return	4
Total	153

ATTACHMENT A

Table 1b
Total Releases from immigration detention - Number
Applied PV 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/2/2004)

Type	Persons
PV Application	1192
No PV Application	2864
Total	4056

Table 1.1
Total Releases from immigration detention - Persons who Applied for PV
By Country of Origin - 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/02/2004)

Country of Origin	Persons
AFGHANISTAN	29
BANGLADESH	18
CHILE	12
CHINA (SO STATED)	33
CHINA, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF	197
FIJI	48
INDIA	88
INDONESIA	128
IRAN	99
IRAQ	25
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	45
MALAYSIA	72
PAKISTAN	27
PHILIPPINES	41
SRI LANKA	26
THAILAND	108
TONGA	10
VIETNAM	23
OTHER	163
Total	1192

ATTACHMENT A

Table 1.2
Total Releases from immigration detention by Release Type - Granted a PPV
By Country of Origin - 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/02/2004)

Country of Origin	Persons
IRAN	10
OTHER	3
Total	13

Table 1.3
Total Releases from immigration detention by Release Type - Granted a TPV
By Country of Origin - 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/02/2004)

Country of Origin	Persons
IRAN	45
OTHER	12
Total	57

Table 1.4
Total Releases from immigration detention by Release Type - Granted a BV
By Country of Origin - 2003-04 YTD (as at 27/02/2004)

Country of Origin	Persons
BANGLADESH	27
BRITISH NATIONAL OVERSEAS	10
CHINA, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF	140
FIJI	27
INDIA	74
INDONESIA	37
IRAN	18
IRELAND (SO STATED)	10
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	22
LEBANON	12
MALAYSIA	27
PAKISTAN	14
PHILIPPINES	26
SRI LANKA	32
THAILAND	27
TONGA	19
UNITED KINGDOM	33
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	13
VIETNAM	16
OTHER	162
Total	746

ATTACHMENT B

The table below shows the number and location of persons detained in the last four financial years.

Table 2

Total persons taken into immigration detention by Location of initial detention for the last four financial years

Centre	2003-04 YTD as at 27/02/04	2002-03 as at 30/06/03	2001-02 as at 30/06/02	2000-01 as at 30/06/01
Curtin IRPC			365	1587
Port Hedland IRPC		2	238	821
Woomera IRPC			725	1571
Maribyrnong IDC	594	877	710	599
Perth IDC	206	341	236	204
Villawood IDC	1992	3458	3116	2137
Christmas Island IRPC	54	7	749	
Baxter*	0	0		
Cocos (Keeling) Islands IRPC		1	170	
RHPs*	0	0	0	
Other**	1012	1934	1497	962
Total	3858	6620	7806	7881

*Persons detained at Baxter IDF and RHPs were transferred to those locations, not initially detained there.

** Other refers to other facilities sometimes used for immigration detention, such as alternative detention, correctional facilities, hospitals etc.

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(41) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 41) asked:

What is the average length of detention per person?

Answer:

The average period of detention is not readily available from departmental systems.

As discussed at the Hearing a breakdown for different periods spent in detention for persons in immigration detention as at 23 January 2004 is as follows:

Length of Detention	Total
< 6 Weeks	140
1.5 - 3 Months	102
3 - 6 Months	124
6 - 12 Months	176
12 - 24 Months	99
24 - 36 Months	174
36+ Months	182
Total	997

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(42) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Sherry (L&C 41-42) asked:

What is the longest period of detention for a person currently in immigration detention?

Answer:

The longest period a person had remained in immigration detention as at 23 January 2004 was 2,234 days.

At the hearing on 17 February 2004, Senator Sherry appeared to be asking about a particular Cambodian detainee, although he was not in fact the person who had been in detention the longest period. That person had been in immigration detention for 1,986 days as at 23 January 2004 and has since been removed from Australia (on 17 February 2004).

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(43) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk (L&C 42) asked:

Over the past five financial years how many individuals were detained in more than one facility?

Answer:

Compilation of these statistics cannot readily be done using departmental systems. In order to respond to this question, thousands of individual files would have to be examined. This would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

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(44) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett (L&C 45) asked:

Are there any statistics for how long people who are on a Bridging Visa E have been in the community on those visas?

Answer:

This information is not currently available. If the information can be reasonably extracted it will be forwarded.