

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(168) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

(1) During the 2009-10 Financial Year how many unlawful non-citizens were located as a result of DIAC's compliance activities?

(2) How many of those have been removed?

(3) At what cost and to which countries?

(4) What are the figures to date?

Answer:

(1) 14 169 unlawful non-citizens and people in breach of their visa conditions were located as a result of onshore compliance activities in the 2009-10 financial year, including those who voluntarily approached the Department seeking to resolve their immigration status.

(2) Of those located in the 2009-10 financial year, 4876 clients were returned from the community and 835 clients were removed from detention (as at 31 December 2010).

(3) The cost of a removal depends on a wide range of factors including the destination and commercial airfare costs, whether security or other escorts are required (including their airfares, accommodation and allowances) and the types of immediate post-return assistance that may be appropriate.

During 2009-10 the average cost for a non-Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) removal was around \$4000.

Information on the countries where these unlawful non-citizens were removed to is not available, however people are generally removed or returned to their country of citizenship.

(4) From 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, 6688 unlawful non-citizens and people in breach of their visa conditions were located as a result of onshore compliance activities, including those who voluntarily approached the Department seeking to resolve their immigration status.

Of those located in the 2010-11 financial year to 31 December 2010, there were 2345 clients returned from the community and 450 clients removed from detention.