

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0304) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

- a) How many asylum seekers who have been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal have voluntarily left Australia in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012?
- b) How many are awaiting removal?
- c) On average, how long have those awaiting removal been held in detention following their negative decision?

Answer:

- a) In the 2010-2011 program year, 32 Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) clients have been voluntarily removed from Australia having been refused refugee status. In the 2011-2012 program year, as at 10 February 2012, 26 IMA clients have been voluntarily removed from Australia having been refused refugee status.
- b) As at 10 February 2012, the Department was planning the voluntary removal of 10 IMAs and 17 crew members who had requested removal from Australia. A further 31 clients were awaiting involuntary removal as they had no ongoing matters before the department or the courts.
- c) As at 10 February 2012, there are two groups of clients in detention awaiting removal from Australia:
 - Those who have requested voluntary removal from Australia (which may occur at any point i.e. either prior to or after receiving a negative outcome). The average number of days these clients had spent in detention since signing a request for removal is 20 days.
 - Those who have received a negative review outcome and are awaiting involuntary removal from Australia. The average number of days spent in detention after receiving the negative outcome of their International Treaties Obligations Assessment (ITOA) is 65 days.