

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0517) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Detention: Why weren't Immigration Detention stats published in Dec 2011 and February 2012?

Answer:

The immigration detention population is highly dynamic and the statistics within the monthly Immigration Detention Statistics Summary are sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems. In order to ensure the report is accurate, the Department undertakes a range of checking processes prior to publication. The time taken to publish the report can vary from month to month depending on the number of data irregularities identified during the checking process.

The 31 January 2012 report was finalised and became available for publication at around the same time as the finalisation of checks for the December 2011 report. As it represented a more recent snapshot of people in detention, the Department decided to publish the 31 January 2012 report.

The February 2012 report was published on the Department's website on 27 March 2012.