

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0115) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 112) asked:

In terms of the profile of Sri Lankan IMAs, how many are Tamils, how many Sinhalese and what part of Sri Lanka do they come from?

*Answer:*

According to DIAC systems data, there have been 5216 Sri Lankan Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) who were taken into Immigration detention between 1 July 2012 to 11 February 2013.

A breakdown of ethnicities has been provided below. The ethnicity recorded is based on what the client chooses to disclose at interview.

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tamil	4071
Sinhalese	950
Unknown	180
Other	15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5216</b>

The Department is not able to readily report on the province or area of Sri Lanka that each IMA has come from and it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to interrogate individual case files.