

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(50) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Nettle (L&CA 121) asked:

- (1) In relation to the people in the Indonesian immigration detention facilities, are they processed by UNHCR and from what countries do those people mainly come?
- (2) Is there anything still in Lombok? Is the IOM still in Lombok?

Answer:

- (1) The Australia Government does not routinely monitor arrangements for foreign nationals detained under the laws of another country. This would be a matter for the Indonesian Government in this case.

The UNHCR is available in Indonesia to assess the claims of anyone who wishes to apply for international protection. The Australian Government has provided funding to assist with UNHCR staffing in Indonesia to undertake timely refugee status determination assessments.

People under DIAC funded IOM care in Indonesia, who signal a possible protection need, are referred to UNHCR for assessment. This includes a number of Afghans in detention in Makassar.

The Australian Government does not know the main nationalities of persons held in immigration detention in Indonesia. IOM advise that of the persons under IOM care in Indonesia at 30 May 2008, 196 persons (43.4%) are Iraqi nationals, 89 persons (19.7%) are Afghanistan nationals, 79 persons (17.5 %) are Sri Lankan nationals, 62 persons (13.7%) are Vietnamese nationals.

- (2) IOM also advise that as of 30 May 2008, 184 persons were in IOM care at Mataram, Lombok. This includes 87 Iraqi Nationals, 65 Sri Lankan Nationals, 19 Vietnamese Nationals, and 10 Afghanistan nationals.

IOM maintains an office at Lombok in order to provide support to the Indonesian Government authorities when irregular migrants are detected en route to Australia. Funding for IOM to establish and maintain this office has been provided by the Australian Government through DIAC.