

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0264) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 84) asked:

Of the 21 IMAs who have arrived since November 2007 who previously entered Australia as IMAs (19 by boat and 2 by air), provide the dates upon which they arrived the first time.

Answer:

In addition to the 21 IMAs previously identified by the department who arrived since November 2007, investigation of databases has identified a further 13 IMAs who have made a second application to engage Australia's protection obligations following a previous arrival as an IMA. The dates upon which they arrived the first time are as follows:

Number of arrivals	First arrival date
1	25/08/1999
1	11/10/1999
1	22/10/1999
6	1/11/1999
1	7/11/1999
1	8/11/1999
1	11/11/1999
4	26/11/1999
1	28/11/1999
1	6/12/1999
1	8/12/1999
1	16/12/1999
1	20/12/1999
2	4/09/2000
1	17/12/2000
1	27/12/2000
1	30/12/2000
1	13/08/2001
4	26/08/2001
1	8/11/2001
2	5/11/2005
Total arrivals	34

The department expanded the collection of biometric facial images and fingerprint into detention facilities from October 2007. Biometric collection has been a mandatory part of the application process for Onshore Protection applicants since

November 2010. All IMAs are checked against departmental and CrimTrac databases to identify previous contact with Government agencies. If a client has had biometrics collected and returns as an IMA their biometrics will be re-acquired and should be identified as having been in Australia previously. For those that did not provide biometrics prior to those dates, this does not apply and other manual investigation processes might identify those who have re-entered.