

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0006) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 24) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Perhaps I could ask you to take this on notice, because I doubt you will have it in front of you. Out of the 7,008 departures that you say are both voluntary and involuntary, how many were held in detention prior to their removal? And what was the average length of time that they were held prior to their removal?

Mr Bowles: I can give you the number in detention: it is 1,453, of which 95 were involuntarily removed and 1,358 were voluntarily removed. I cannot give you the length of time these people would have stayed. I cannot give you the average, but more than likely some would be there for large lengths of time and others would be quite quick. Some get taken out of prison systems and go into detention and straight out, so they could be there overnight. It will be difficult to come up with a proper answer to that.

Answer:

Of the 7,008 departures there were 1,453 clients removed from immigration detention from July 2012 to March 2013, of which 95 were involuntarily removed and 1,358 were voluntarily removed.

According to DIAC systems data as at 28 May 2013 the average length of time clients were in immigration detention prior to removal was 45 days.