

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0068) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 7) asked:

Senator CASH: Exactly. That is exactly right. So I would just like to work out what that figure is so I can then work back to 39,224.

...

Senator CASH: How many are in prison?

Mr Bowles: I do not know off the top of my head, but we are talking a small number.

Senator CASH: Is that a figure that we could get throughout the course of the day?

Mr Bowles: We can see what we can find.

Answer:

The Department is unable to say how many people who came to Australia as Irregular Maritime Arrivals since September 2008 are currently in prison. Many of these arrivals are now Australian citizens or permanent residents, and the Department does not keep records of the criminal justice status of such individuals.