

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0197) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Boyce (L&CA 115) asked:

Mr Bowles: In the 2012-13 year to date there are 162 voluntary and 966 involuntary. In the 2011-12 year there were two voluntary and none involuntary.

Senator BOYCE: On notice, could you give us the breakdown of Tamil and Sinhalese.

*Answer:*

In the 2011-12 program year, two Sri Lankan Irregular Maritime Arrivals were voluntarily removed. These clients both claimed to be of Tamil ethnicity.

In the 2012-13 program year, as at 26 May 2013, 162 Sri Lankan Irregular Maritime Arrivals were voluntarily removed and 965 were involuntarily removed. Of the total number of IMAs removed, 445 claimed to be of Tamil ethnicity and 682 claimed to be of Sinhalese ethnicity.

Please note: the involuntary removal figure for the 2012-13 program has been amended after data correction.