

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(217) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett asked:

1. How many international students are there currently in detention centres?
2. Please provide a breakdown of:
 - a. The countries they are originally from.
 - b. Length of time they have been in detention.
 - c. What the breach of their visas have been for.
 - d. Which detention centres they are in

Answer:

1. At 3 November 2006 there were 21 persons in immigration detention who have previously held a student visa.
2. a. These ex-student visa holder detainees are from Bangladesh (1), Peoples Republic of China (10), Hong Kong SAR (1), India (2), Malawi (1), Malaysia (1), Mozambique (1), Nepal (2), Turkey (1), and Vietnam (1).
- b. They have been in immigration detention for periods as follows:

Citizenship	Days Detained	Years
Hong Kong SAR	1730	4.7
Turkey	1045	2.9
PRC	897	2.5
PRC	828	2.3
Nepal	663	1.8
PRC	596	1.6
Mozambique	527	1.4
PRC	513	1.4
PRC	322	<1
India	220	<1
Nepal	195	<1

Citizenship	Days Detained	Years
Bangladesh	169	<1
Vietnam	128	<1
India	100	<1
PRC	25	<1
PRC	21	<1
Malawi	19	<1
PRC	18	<1
Malaysia	17	<1
PRC	3	<1
PRC	2	<1

c. Of the 21 detainees, 16 have been detained for overstaying their visas, 4 did not commence studies or failed to meet course requirements, and 1 was detained following visa cancellation under s501 of the Migration Act 1958 on character grounds. There is evidence to suggest that a number of these people were engaged at some point as illegal workers.

d. The detainees are being held in the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (15), the Baxter Immigration and Processing Reception Centre (2), the Port Augusta Immigration Housing Centre (2), a DIMA apartment in NSW (1) and at Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre (1).