

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

##### **(57) Output 1.4: Compliance**

Senator Ellison (L&CA 106-107) asked:

How many people have been released from immigration detention as a result of the announcement on 29 July?

Of those people released—there are two aspects to the question—there are those who have been released since 29 July and those who may have been released as a result of the new direction in policy as described by the minister. There is a third question. Of those released, are they still in Australia? If not, are they still in Australia? If the answer is yes, are they meeting reporting requirements?

*Answer:*

In his speech of 29 July 2008, the Minister announced that he had asked the Department to review all current detainees and apply the same principles used during his review earlier in 2008 of the 72 people who had been held in detention for more than two years.

The Department's review of current detainees is nearing completion. As individual outcomes are reached, they are being implemented.

A range of factors, including the current review of detainees, can impact on the resolution of a client's immigration status. Departmental systems cannot distinguish between those people who would have left detention under the pre-existing detention management arrangements and those leaving detention as a result of the current caseload review.

Between 29 July 2008 and 21 October 2008, some 704 people entered detention, 757 people were released from detention and four absconded from detention. As at 21 October 2008, of the 757 people released from detention, 572 departed Australia and 189 remained in the Australian community. Of these 189 people, 79 were granted a substantive visa, eight had their lawful status reinstated and 98 were granted a Bridging visa. Of the 98 people granted Bridging visas, 90 were continuing to comply with the conditions of their visa and eight had failed to comply with the conditions of their visa and were now unlawful non-citizens. These eight people and the four who absconded from detention remain unlawful non-citizens and subject to compliance action. Once located, they will be subject to detention and removal.