

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(42) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&C 94 and 97) asked :

You provided figures in an answer to a question on notice about the breakdown of the people on the island. Could you update those figures, which will vary with the date? The nationalities, the ages; religion, that sort of breakdown.

(Senator Fierravanti-Wells' office has advised that the information sought in this question on notice is statistics on the age, nationalities, and time periods of immigration detention for all those on Christmas Island for the 2008/09 financial year.)

Answer:

In the 2008/09 financial year, 995 irregular maritime arrivals (passengers and crew) arrived on Christmas Island. As at 20 October 2009, 243 of those clients remained on Christmas Island.

A breakdown of age, nationality and time in immigration detention, as at close of business on Christmas Island on 20 October 2009, for all 995 clients that arrived on Christmas Island in the 2008/09 financial year is below. Note that the figure for days in immigration detention represents either the total time spent in immigration detention by a client up until visa grant or removal from Australia, or, for those clients still on Christmas Island as at 20 October 2009, the total time in immigration detention up until that point in time.

1. Age:

AGE	NO. OF CLIENTS
1 - 9	20
10 - 19	159
20 - 29	416
30 - 39	259
40 - 49	107
50 - 59	26
60 - 69	6
Age not determined	2

2. Nationality:

NATIONALITY	NO. OF CLIENTS	NATIONALITY	NO. OF CLIENTS
Afghani	534	Indonesian	55
Sri Lankan	292	Others	39
Iraqi	75		

3. Days in immigration detention

For the 2008/09 financial year, the time spent in immigration detention for clients on Christmas Island varies. On average, the vast majority of clients are being held in immigration detention for about 100 days.