

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(255) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

(1) How many of the unlawful non-citizens who were located in the 2009-10 financial year have been removed?

(2) At what cost and to which countries?

Answer:

(1) The Department's compliance activities may result in a number of outcomes for those located, including removal. Of the 14 169 clients located as a result of onshore compliance activities in the 2009-10 financial year, 11 788 presented voluntarily and as at the end of July 2010, 886 had been removed from Australia. The remaining clients are either residing lawfully in the community as the holder of a substantive visa or a Bridging E visa; disengaged from the Department and no longer lawful; have departed Australia voluntarily; or are held in immigration detention. Total departures of compliance clients in the 2009-10 year including voluntary returns and removals were 8825.

(2) There are a range of variables that affect removal costs, included airfares, travel documents and return assistance packages (where appropriate) for each client in their country as well as any escort costs (airfares, accommodation and allowances). During 2009-10, the average cost to facilitate a removal was just under \$4000 per client.

People are generally removed or returned to their country of citizenship or to another country where they have a right of long term residence.

The top five countries to which people were removed, excluding airport border turnarounds, in 2009-10 were:

1. Malaysia
2. Indonesia
3. People's Republic of China
4. Sri Lanka
5. New Zealand