

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(99) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA 96) asked:

How many children were there in detention in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010?

Answer:

Departmental systems cannot readily determine the number of people under 18 years old in immigration detention by calendar year. The number of people under 18 who were held in immigration detention for any period during each of the financial years from 2007-08 onwards is as follows.

Number of unlawful non-citizens under 18 years old held in immigration detention by financial year	
Financial Year	Total
2007-08	227
2008-09	220
2009-10	970
2010-11	881*

*Year to date as at 19 October 2010

Where an individual has been in immigration detention for a period covering more than one financial year, they will be counted against each of the financial years. Consequently, adding the numbers in this table would generate incorrect results and any trend information derived from the 2010-11 year to date figure may be misleading.