

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0293) Program 2.1: Irregular Maritime Arrivals

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 46) asked:

Why wasn't an Immigration Detention Statistics Report published for the month of August 2011?

Answer:

The immigration detention population is highly dynamic and the statistics within the monthly Immigration Detention Statistics Summary are sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems. In order to ensure the report is accurate, the Department undertakes a range of checking processes prior to publication. The time taken to publish the report can vary from month to month depending on the number of data irregularities identified during the checking process. On this occasion, the 30 September 2011 report was finalised and became available for publication at around the same time as the finalisation of checks for the August report. As it represented a more recent snapshot of people in detention, the Department decided to publish the 30 September report. The report was made available on the Department's website on Friday 14 October.