

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0060) PROGRAMME – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Rhiannon (L&CA 118) asked:

Dr Southern: In this financial year, 12 IMAs have returned voluntarily to Sri Lanka.

Senator RHIANNON: And how many have returned involuntarily—take away 12 from 1,191?

Dr Southern: No. That figure was from October 2012 to October this year. The 12 voluntary returns is just in this financial year, from July 2013 to the present.

Senator RHIANNON: Can you give us figures so I can compare it?

Dr Southern: Perhaps I will give you two financial year figures. For 2012-13 there were 1,056 involuntary returns and 159 voluntary returns. To date this financial year there have been 12 voluntary returns and 140 involuntary.

Senator RHIANNON: For both those sets of figures, could you give me the figures on how many were unaccompanied minors, for the voluntary and involuntary in those financial years?

Dr Southern: Certainly. We can take that on notice.

Answer:

In 2012-2013 programme year, one unaccompanied minor (UAM) who arrived as an Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) was voluntarily removed and one UAM who arrived as an IMA was involuntarily removed from Australia.

In 2013-2014 programme year (as at 19 November 2013), two UAMs who arrived as IMAs were involuntarily removed from Australia.