

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENCES COMMITTEE:
11 OCTOBER 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

5. What is the number of people in detention in Australia relative to other comparable countries?

All countries operate migration programs to meet their own priorities and adjust them in response to local and regional circumstances. For this reason, comparisons of aspects of migration programs between countries are neither appropriate or reliable. Examples of the dissimilarities include: Australia experiences lower numbers of asylum claims, has experienced lower levels of “illegal” migration but has larger and more highly developed official or “managed” migration and refugee settlement programs than most other “comparable” countries. These differences exist for a range of reasons including geographic, political and historical.