



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

# Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

31 August 2012



people our business

## ***About this report***

This report provides an overview of the number of people in immigration detention in Australia as at midnight on the date of the report. The report is produced on a monthly basis.

Data is sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems. Data relating to the immigration detention population is dynamic and there can be delays in transmission of information from the department's immigration detention network operations. Variations in figures between this report and previous issues can occur. Due to these issues, data from the current financial year should always be considered provisional.

Further information about immigration detention is available at [www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention](http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention).

### **Enquiries**

Any comment or enquiries concerning this report should be sent using our client service feedback form quoting the name and date of the report.

**See:** <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention/visiting/enquiries-feedback.htm>

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## DETENTION STATISTICS SUMMARY

*Detention Operations Division, DIAC - As at 31 August 2012*

There were 7338 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 5585 in immigration detention on the mainland and 1753 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 31 August 2012. Separately, 1403 people have been approved for a residence determination to live in the community. August has seen an increase in arrivals, including children. This has impacted on the number of children in detention facilities for this month.

Figure 1

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention					
Place of immigration detention <sup>1</sup>	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from Previous Summary (31/07/12)
Christmas Island IDC	805			805	+ 84
Curtin IDC	1248			1248	+ 187
Maribyrnong IDC	83	10		93	0
Northern IDC (Darwin)	438			438	+ 182
Perth IDC	18	1		19	- 9
Scherger IDC	379			379	- 80
Villawood IDC	337	42		379	+ 67
Wickham Point IDC	1278			1278	+ 94
Yongah Hill IDC	577			577	+ 136
<b>Total in IDCs</b>	<b>5163</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>5216</b>	<b>+ 661</b>
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	4	1		5	+ 2
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	18			18	+ 1
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	10	7	5	22	+ 3
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	3			3	- 9
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	54			54	- 12
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	46		57	103	+ 32
<b>Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>+ 17</b>
Alternative Places of Detention <sup>2</sup> (Christmas Island)	527	161	260	948	- 6
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	417	180	372	969	- 143
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port				0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6242</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>7338</b>	<b>+ 529</b>

<b>People in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>1403</b>	<b>+ 186</b>
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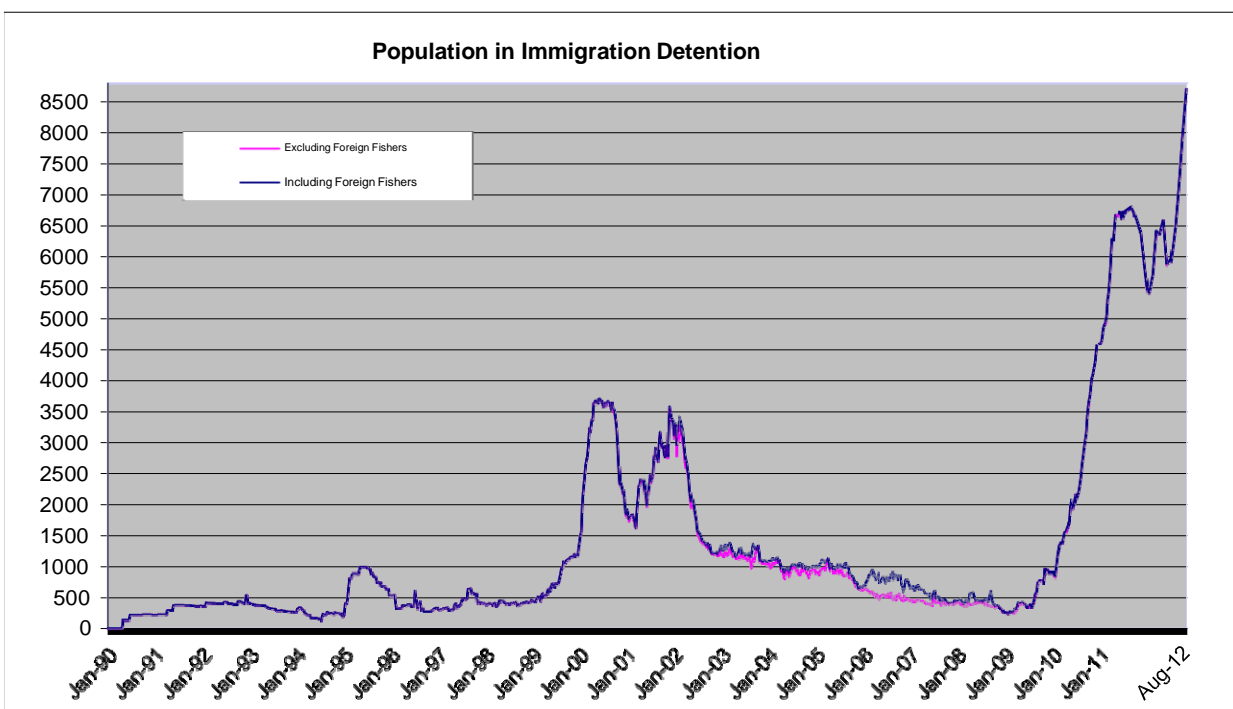
<sup>1</sup> Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

<sup>2</sup> Includes detention in the community in private houses / correctional facilities / watch houses / hotels / apartments / foster care / hospitals with a person designated under the Act.

## Immigration Detention Population from 1990 to August 2012.

The number of people in immigration detention month to month continues to fluctuate, predominantly due to the changing pattern of irregular maritime arrivals.

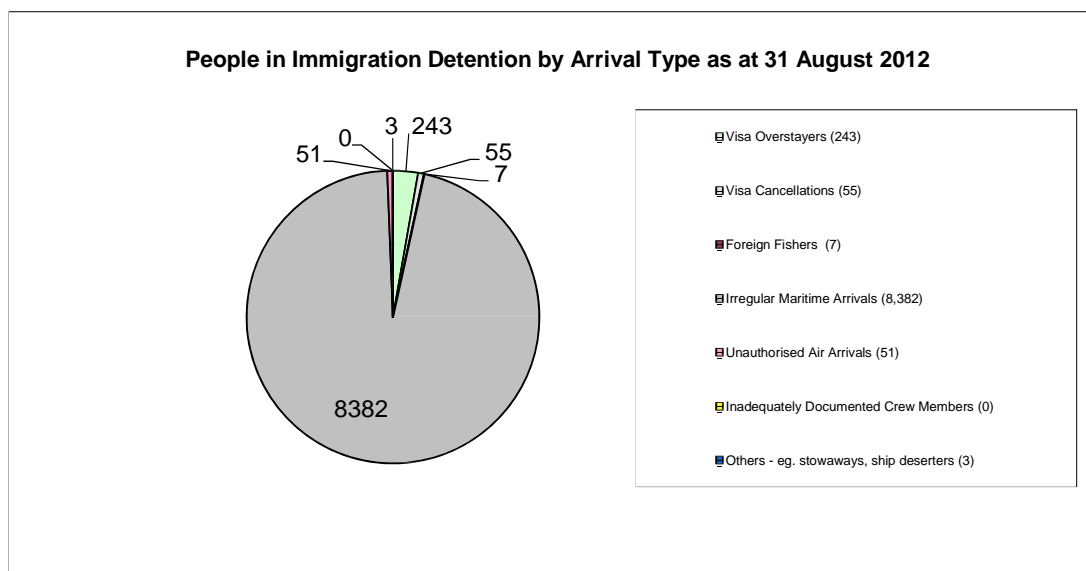
Figure 2



## People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 31 August 2012 was 8433, representing about 96 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 298 people (about 3 per cent of the total immigration population) who arrived in Australia lawfully and were subsequently taken into immigration detention for either overstaying or breaching their visa conditions, resulting in visa cancellation.

Figure 3



## People in Immigration Detention by Nationality

Of the 7338 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 31 August 2012, around 35% were Sri Lankan nationals, 25% were Afghan nationals and 13% were Iranian nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 31 August 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Sri Lanka	48	2408	21	105	2582
Afghanistan	30	1546	14	225	1815
Iran	182	656	50	91	979
Pakistan	6	468	2	31	507
Indonesia	6	336	2	23	367
Iraq	22	193	5	9	229
China, Peoples Republic Of	21	68			89
Palestinian Authority	17	36	23	13	89
Vietnam	16	37	2	6	61
Bangladesh		32			32
Other	54	462	24	48	588
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>6242</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>7338</b>

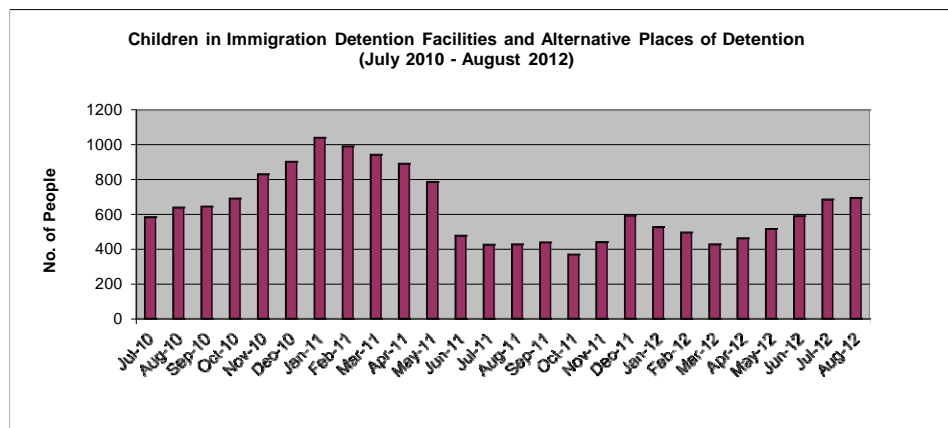
Of the 1403 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 31 August 2012, around 33% were Iranian nationals, 16% were Afghan nationals and 14% were Sri Lankan nationals.

Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 31 August 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	116	209	60	73	458
Afghanistan	19	92	12	108	231
Sri Lanka	41	88	28	33	190
Iraq	35	78	18	38	169
Vietnam	7	7	10	18	42
Other	73	124	41	75	313
<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>1403</b>

As at 31 August 2012, there were 694 children (aged under 18 years) in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention. The increase in the number of children in detention facilities during August 2012 was due to a rapid increase in irregular maritime arrivals, including 272 children. The majority of children in facilities-based detention have been in detention for less than two months. No children are detained in an immigration detention centre.

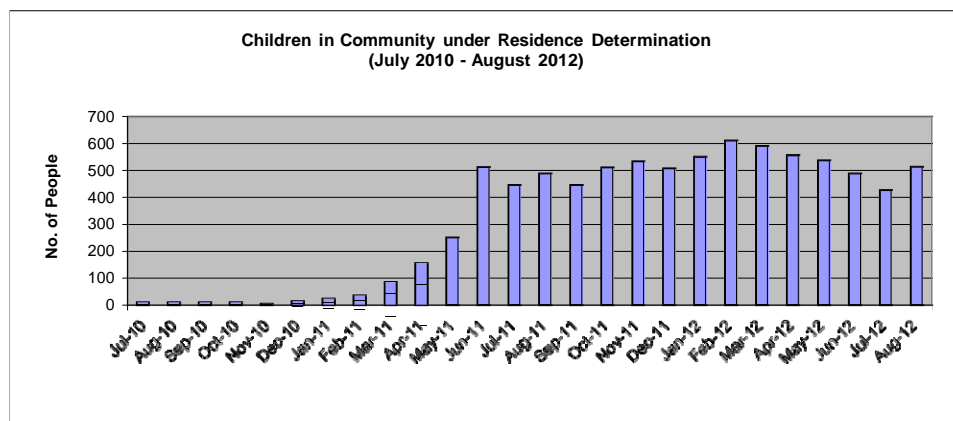
Figure 6



Note: Immigration Detention Facilities in Figure 6 refer to Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation.

The number of children approved to live in the community under a residence determination has been maintained at a high level since the Government's announcement on 18 October 2010 that it would move the majority of children and a significant number of vulnerable families into community based arrangements by 30 June 2011.

Figure 7



For the month of August 2012, 694 children remained in immigration detention while undergoing initial processing, 514 children were approved under residence determination for community placement. In addition, 130 children had been granted a bridging visa and were living in the community.

Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 31 August 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	5
Immigration Transit Accommodation	57
Alternative Places of Detention	632
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>
<b>Children in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>514</b>
<b>Children Granted Bridging Visa E (BVE)</b>	<b>130</b>

## Time in Detention

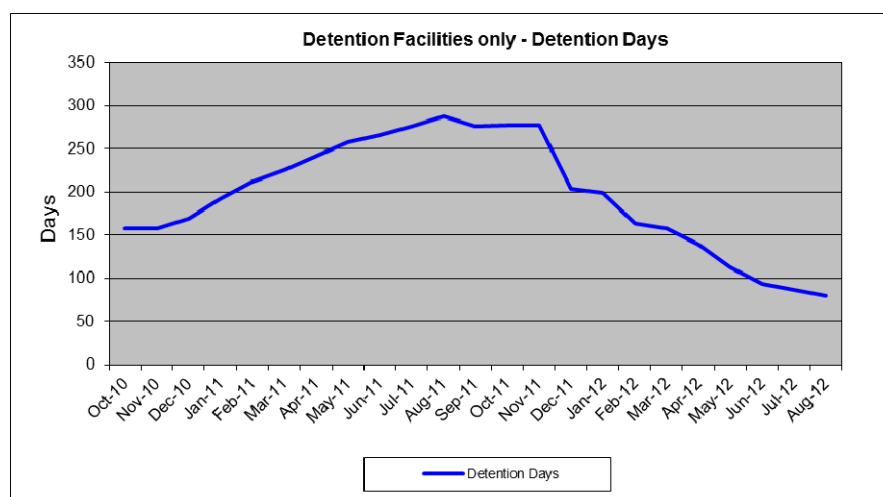
Of the 8741 people in immigration detention including community detention as at 31 August 2012, around 66% had been detained for 3 months or less and 88% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 31 August 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	760	8.7%
8 days - 31 days	1516	17.3%
32 days - 91 days	3515	40.2%
92 days - 182 days	1468	16.8%
183 days - 365 days	445	5.1%
366 days - 547 days	271	3.1%
548 days - 730 days	296	3.4%
Greater than 730 days	470	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8741</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 277 days in November 2011 to 79 days in August 2012.

Figure 10



Note: Excludes people held in community detention and correctional facilities.