



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

## Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

30 April 2012



## ***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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## IMMIGRATION DETENTION STATISTICS SUMMARY

Detention Operations Division, DIAC - As at 30 April 2012

There were 4397 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 3652 in immigration detention on the mainland and 745 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 30 April 2012. Separately, 1710 people have been approved for a residence determination to live in the community.

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 (29/02/12)
Christmas Island IDC	538			538	+ 410
Curtin IDC	751			751	- 199
Maribyrnong IDC	78	10		88	+ 7
Northern IDC (Darwin)	94			94	- 25
Perth IDC	17	2		19	- 7
Pontville IDC				0	0
Scherger IDC	403			403	- 24
Villawood IDC	277	37		314	- 21
Wickham Point IDC	795			795	- 28
<b>Total in IDCs</b>	<b>2953</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3002</b>	<b>+ 113</b>
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	8		4	12	+ 5
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	16			16	0
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	14	4	4	22	- 3
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	2			2	- 3
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	29			29	+ 2
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	60		1	61	- 11
<b>Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>- 10</b>
Alternative Places of Detention <sup>2</sup> (Christmas Island)	53	19	135	207	+ 167
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	503	203	339	1045	- 71
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port	1			1	+ 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3639</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>4397</b>	<b>+ 200</b>
<b>People in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>1710</b>	<b>- 2</b>

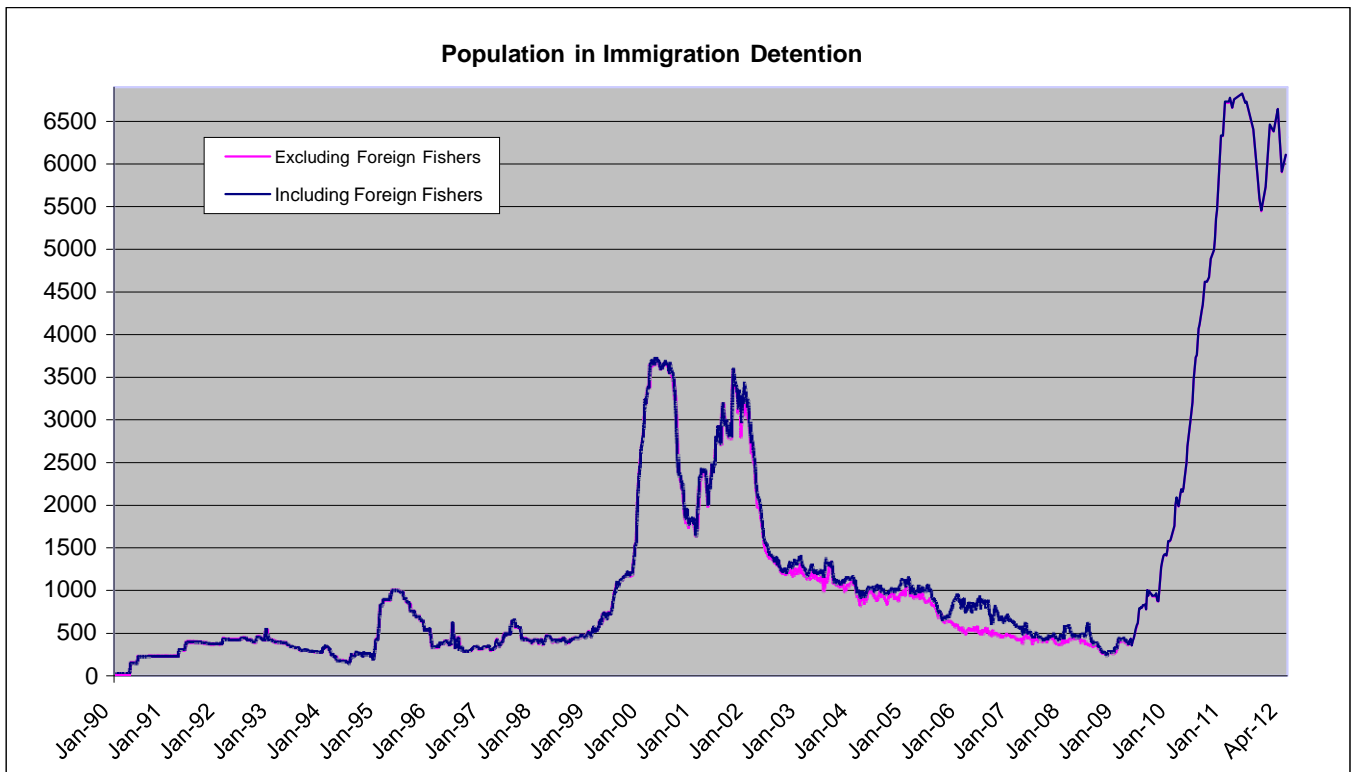
<sup>1</sup> Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

<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 April 2012.

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

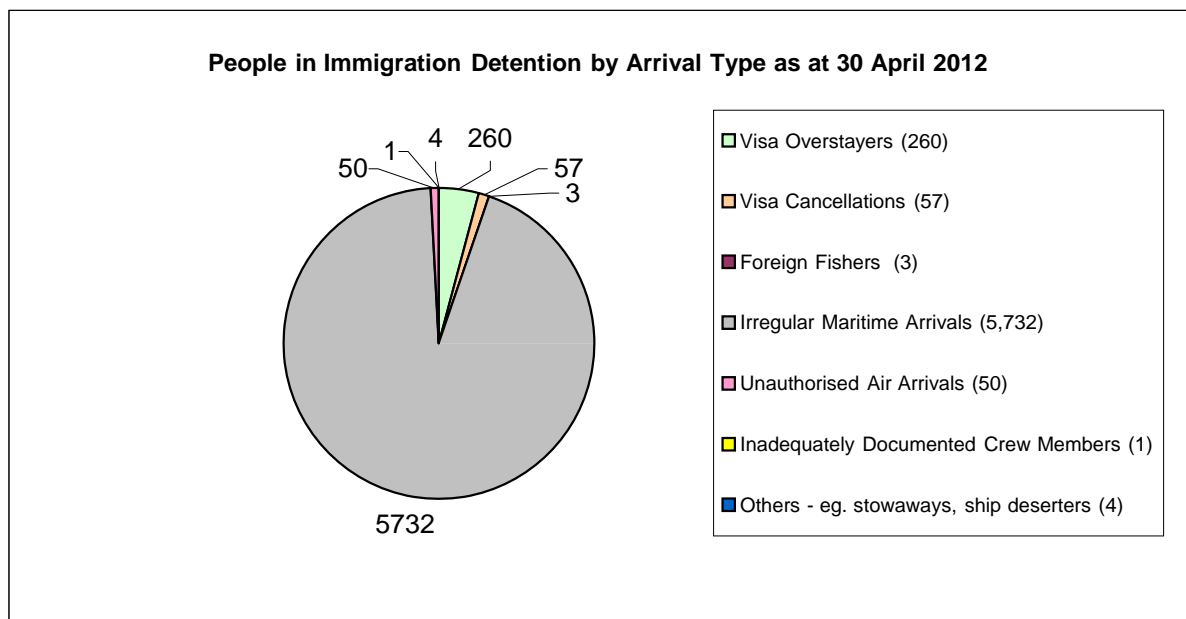
Figure 2



## People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 30 April 2012 was 5782, representing about 94 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 317 people (about 5 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 4397 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 30 April 2012, around 38% were Afghan nationals, 15% were Iranian nationals and 8% were Sri Lankan nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 30 April 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Afghanistan	30	1401	17	213	1661
Iran	108	474	40	45	667
Sri Lanka	25	322	13	18	378
Indonesia	2	332		11	345
Pakistan	3	302	1	14	320
Iraq	10	187	7	19	223
China, Peoples Republic Of	27	91	1	1	120
Vietnam	14	46	8	14	82
Burma	5	56	4	6	71
Palestinian Authority	3	12	1	5	21
Other	48	416	11	34	509
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>3639</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>4397</b>

Of the 1710 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 30 April 2012, around 37% were Iranian nationals, 16% were Afghan nationals and 16% were Sri Lankan nationals.

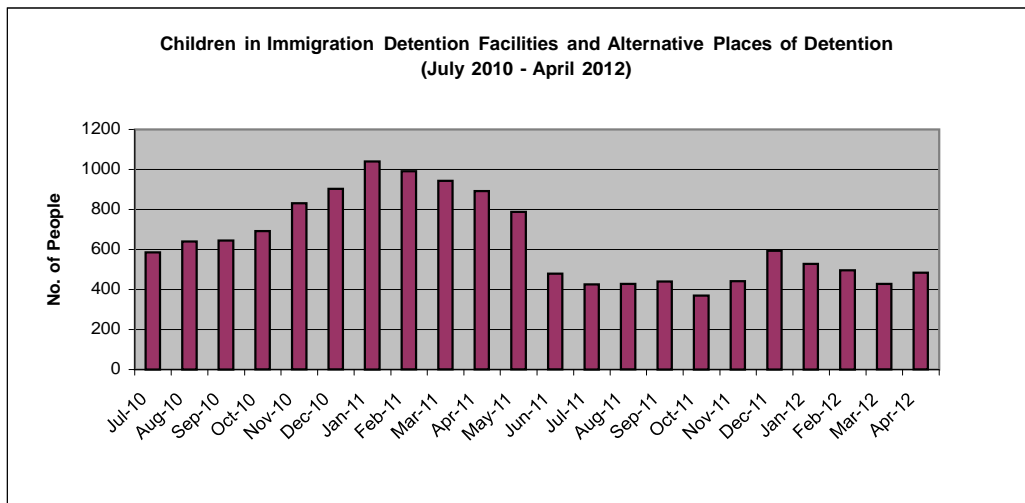
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 30 April 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	182	274	82	93	631
Afghanistan	10	134	4	122	270
Sri Lanka	72	108	43	46	269
Iraq	32	91	25	45	193
Vietnam	6	6	5	10	27
Other	78	136	46	60	320
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>1710</b>

## Children in Immigration Detention

As at 30 April 2012, there were 483 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 November 2011, December 2011 and February 2012 was due to a rapid increase in irregular maritime arrivals during those months. The majority of children in facilities-based detention have been in detention for less than three 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 increased significantly 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

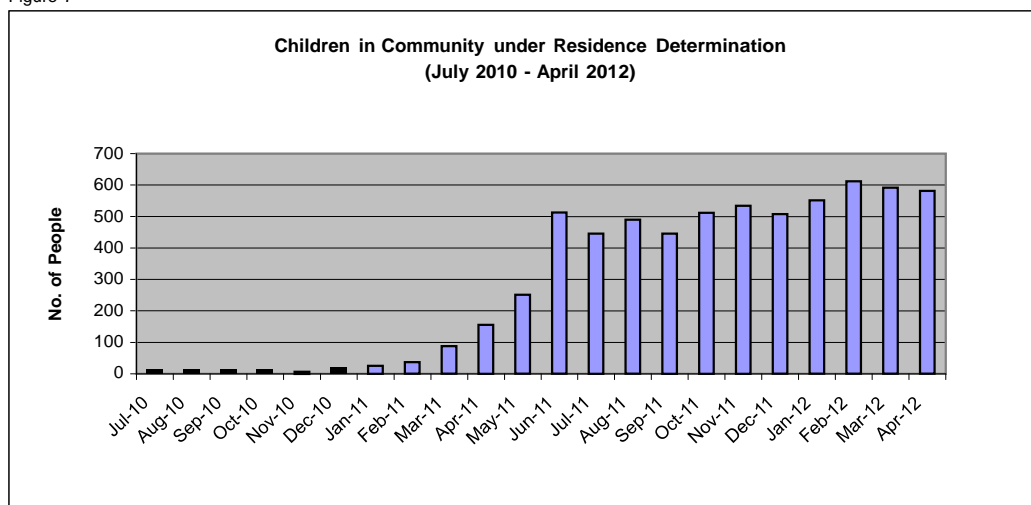


Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 30 April 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	8
Immigration Transit Accommodation	1
Alternative Places of Detention	474
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>

<b>Children in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>581</b>
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## Time in Detention

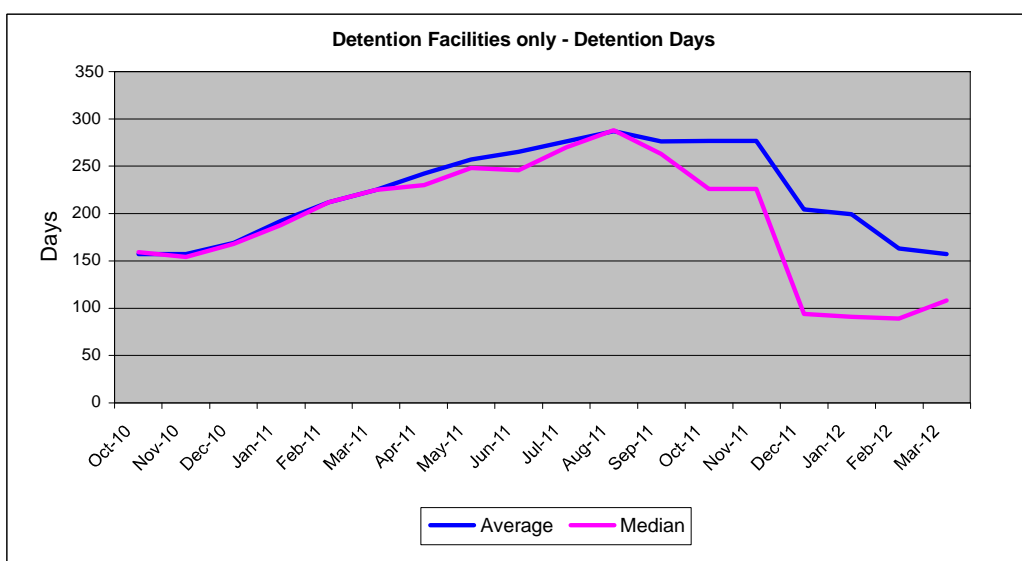
Of the 6107 people in immigration detention as at 30 April 2012, around 32% had been detained for 3 months or less and 76% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 30 April 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	513	8.4%
8 days - 31 days	299	4.9%
32 days - 91 days	1124	18.4%
92 days - 182 days	2090	34.2%
183 days - 365 days	600	9.8%
366 days - 547 days	644	10.5%
548 days - 730 days	465	7.6%
Greater than 730 days	372	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6107</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 277 days in November 2011 to 157 days in March 2012. Likewise, the median<sup>1</sup> period of people held in detention facilities has decreased from 226 days in November 2011 to 108 days in March 2012.

Figure 10



<sup>1</sup> A type of average, the median number is the midpoint of the total caseload. The median is a useful number in cases where the distribution has a large variation in values.