



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

# Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

31 October 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 31 October 2012

There were 7633 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 5415 in immigration detention on the mainland and 2218 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 31 October 2012. Separately, 1816 people have been approved for a residence determination to live in the community. October 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 (30/09/12)
Christmas Island IDC	956			956	- 110
Curtin IDC	1089			1089	- 46
Maribyrnong IDC	88	3		91	- 5
Northern IDC (Darwin)	319			319	- 78
Perth IDC	31	3		34	+ 6
Scherger IDC	389			389	- 50
Villawood IDC	297	44		341	- 33
Wickham Point IDC	1355			1355	- 21
Yongah Hill IDC	585			585	+ 4
<b>Total in IDCs</b>	<b>5109</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>5159</b>	<b>- 333</b>
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	5	6	4	15	+ 13
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	18			18	0
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	12	8	6	26	+ 1
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	7	2		9	- 4
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	68	1		69	+ 34
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	49		25	74	- 59
<b>Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>- 15</b>
Alternative Places of Detention <sup>2</sup> (Christmas Island and Coco's Keeling Island)	572	275	415	1262	+ 79
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	425	229	347	1001	+ 232
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port				0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6265</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>7633</b>	<b>- 37</b>
<b>People in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>1816</b>	<b>+ 128</b>

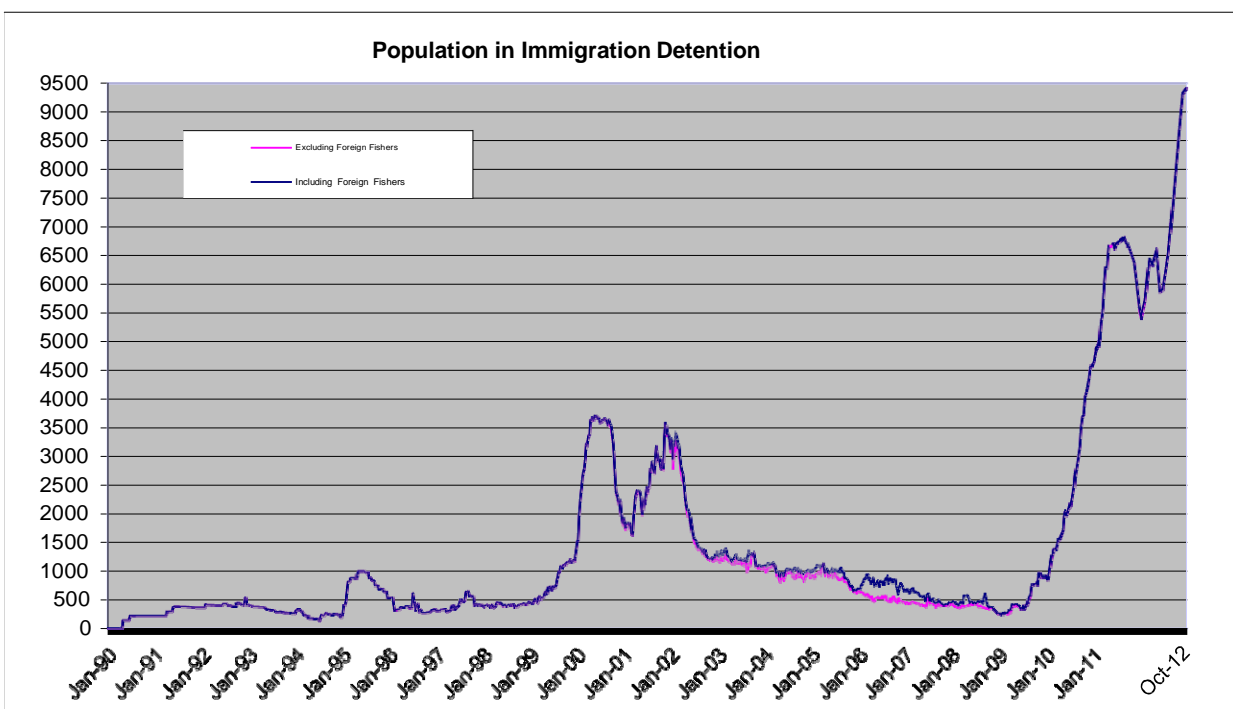
<sup>1</sup> Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

<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 October 2012.

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

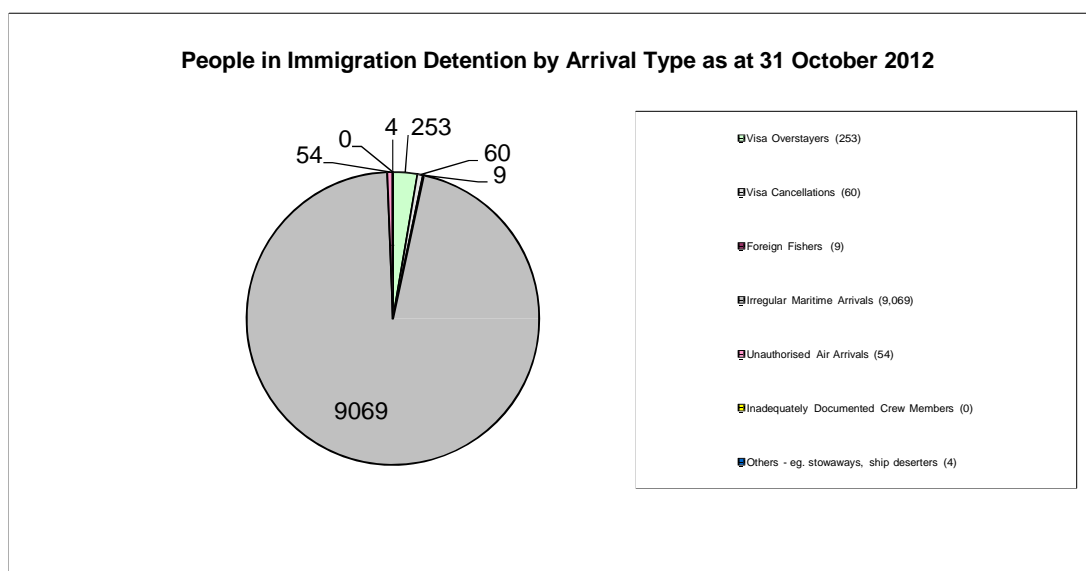
Figure 2



## People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 31 October 2012 was 9123, representing about 97 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 313 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 7633 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 31 October 2012, around 43% were Sri Lankan nationals, 17% were Iranian nationals and 13% were Afghan nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 31 October 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Sri Lanka	113	3001	43	152	3309
Iran	277	805	91	138	1311
Afghanistan	11	808	7	130	956
Iraq	32	333	18	41	424
Pakistan	6	293	2	17	318
Indonesia	7	269	3	18	297
Burma	10	69	6	14	99
China, Peoples Republic Of	21	68			89
Vietnam	8	44	3	6	61
Bangladesh		51			51
Other	86	524	44	64	718
<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>6265</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>7633</b>

Of the 1816 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 31 October 2012, around 30% were Iranian nationals, 18% were Afghan nationals and 18% were Sri Lankan nationals.

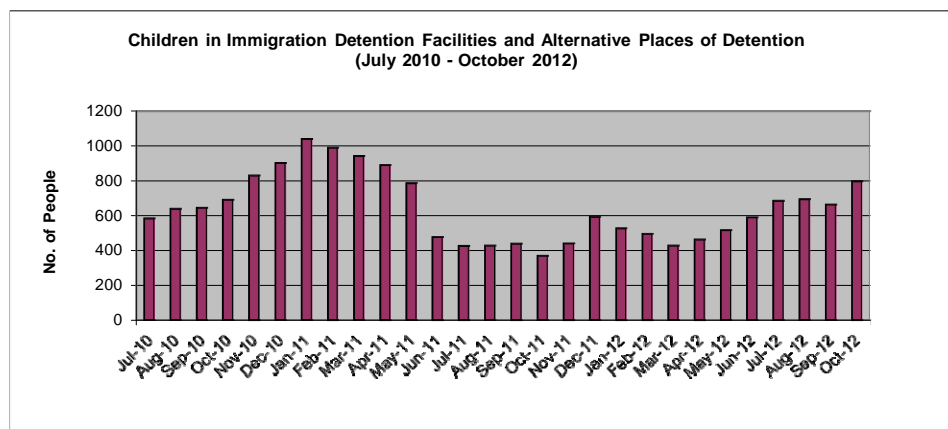
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 31 October 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	141	236	78	95	550
Afghanistan	33	103	18	174	328
Sri Lanka	58	128	39	103	328
Iraq	32	66	15	25	138
Palestinian Authority	26	26	29	17	98
Other	78	131	53	112	374
<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1816</b>

## Children in Immigration Detention

As at 31 October 2012, there were 797 children (aged under 18 years) in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention. The increase in the number of children in detention facilities in October 2012 was due to a continued high tempo of irregular maritime arrivals, including 350 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.

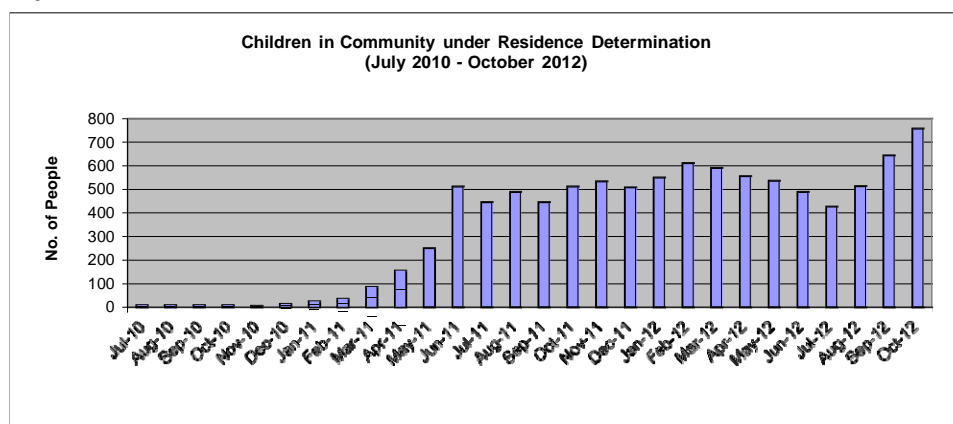
Figure 6



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 October 2012, 797 children remained in immigration detention while undergoing initial processing, 758 children were approved under residence determination for community placement. In addition, 90 children had been granted a bridging visa and were living in the community.

Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 31 October 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	10
Immigration Transit Accommodation	25
Alternative Places of Detention	762
<b>Total</b>	<b>797</b>
Children in Community under Residence Determination	758
Children Granted Bridging Visa E (BVE)	90

## Time in Detention

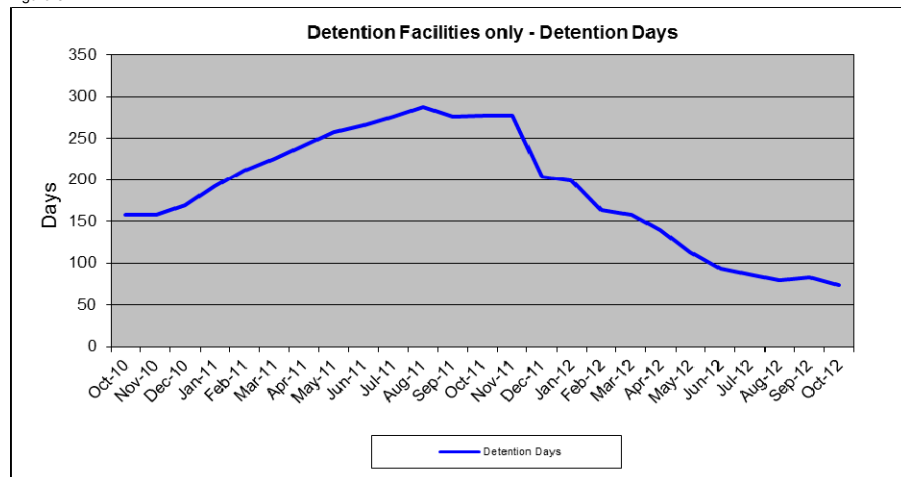
Of the 9449 people in immigration detention as at 31 October 2012, around 66% had been detained for 3 months or less and 91% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 31 October 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	423	4.5%
8 days - 31 days	2151	22.8%
32 days - 91 days	3697	39.1%
92 days - 182 days	1919	20.3%
183 days - 365 days	388	4.1%
366 days - 547 days	160	1.7%
548 days - 730 days	199	2.1%
Greater than 730 days	512	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9449</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 277 days in November 2011 to 74 days in October 2012.

Figure 9



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