



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

# Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

31 May 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>

## ***Table of Contents***

1. People in immigration detention by location.....	Page 4
2. Immigration detention population 1990 to May 2012.....	Page 5
3. People in immigration detention by arrival type.....	Page 5
4. People in immigration detention by nationality .....	Page 6
5. Children in immigration detention.....	Page 7
6. People in immigration detention by time in detention.....	Page 8

# IMMIGRATION DETENTION STATISTICS SUMMARY

Detention Operations Division, DIAC - As at 31 May 2012

There were 4906 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 3915 in immigration detention on the mainland and 991 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 31 May 2012. Separately, 1624 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 (30/04/12)
Christmas Island IDC	764			764	+ 337
Curtin IDC	830			830	+ 64
Maribyrnong IDC	86	9		95	+ 18
Northern IDC (Darwin)	88			88	- 5
Perth IDC	18			18	- 3
Scherger IDC	379			379	- 58
Villawood IDC	237	41		278	- 19
Wickham Point IDC	1038			1038	+ 371
<b>Total in IDCs</b>	<b>3440</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3490</b>	<b>+ 705</b>
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	6			6	- 4
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	16			16	0
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	15	7	6	28	- 2
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation	1			1	- 5
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	49	1		50	+ 10
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	56			56	+ 2
<b>Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
Alternative Places of Detention <sup>2</sup> (Christmas Island)	72	38	117	227	- 147
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	468	171	393	1032	+ 18
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port				0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4123</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>4906</b>	<b>+ 577</b>
<b>People in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1624</b>	<b>- 14</b>

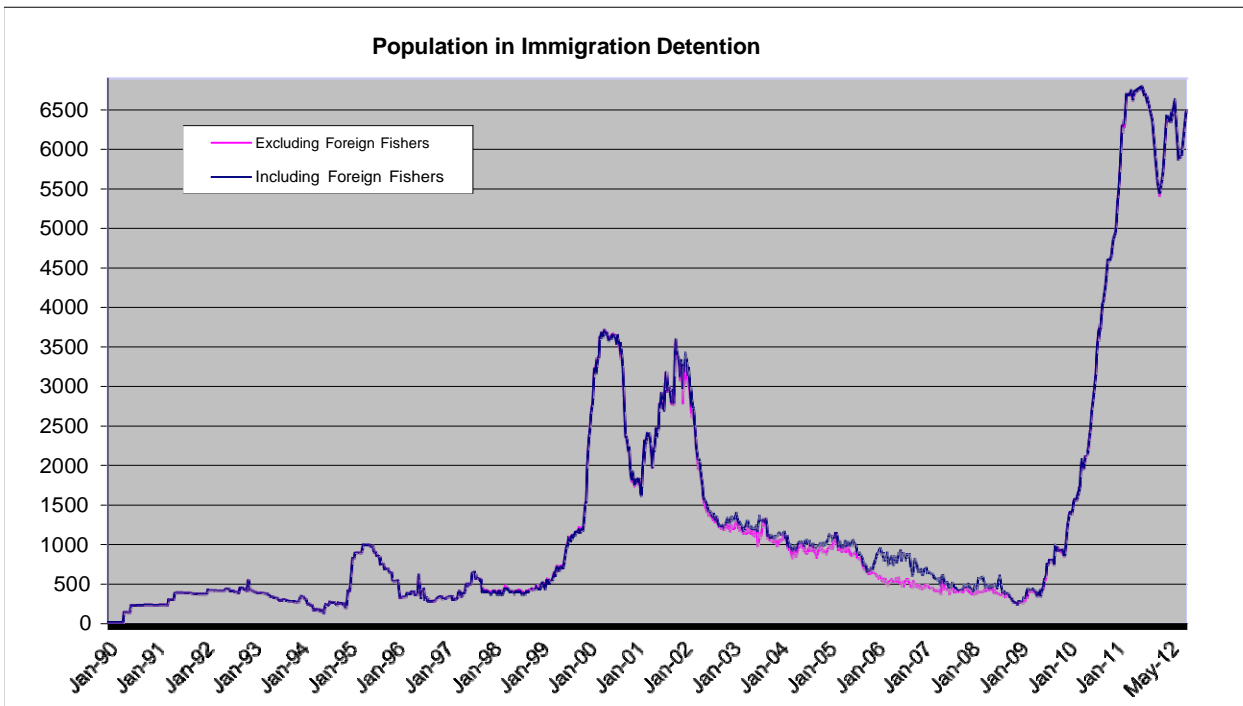
<sup>1</sup> Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

<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 May 2012.

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

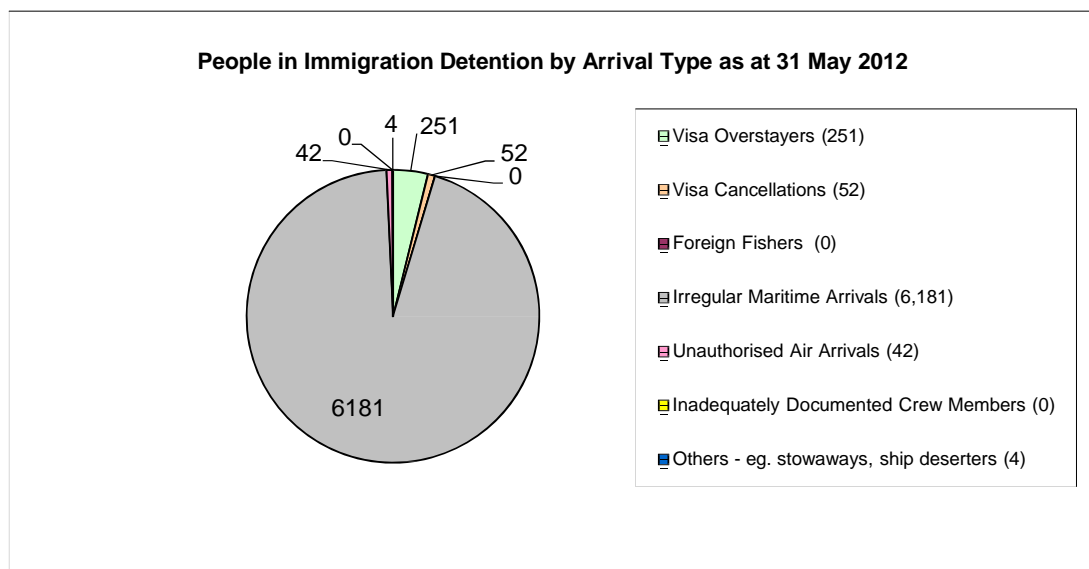
Figure 2



## People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 31 May 2012 was 6223, representing about 95 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 303 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 4906 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 31 May 2012, around 41% were Afghan nationals, 14% were Sri Lankan nationals and 10% were Iranian nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 31 May 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Afghanistan	33	1697	17	246	1993
Sri Lanka	18	635	8	21	682
Iran	86	339	26	35	486
Pakistan	5	388	3	23	419
Indonesia	1	323		8	332
Iraq	14	169	12	16	211
China, Peoples Republic Of	28	80	1		109
Vietnam	16	41	8	14	79
Burma	3	51	1	3	58
Palestinian Authority	13	20	11	11	55
Other	50	380	13	39	482
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>4123</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>4906</b>

Of the 1624 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 31 May 2012, around 37% were Iranian nationals, 17% were Sri Lankan nationals and 14% were Afghan nationals.

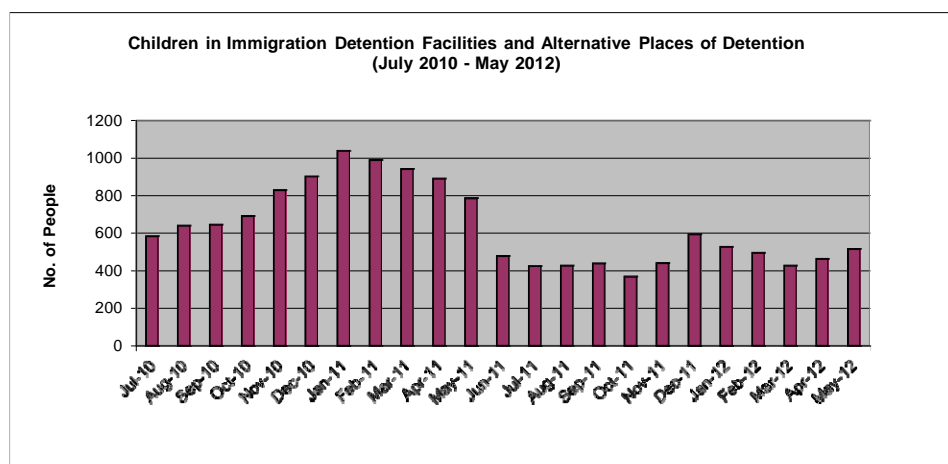
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 31 May 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	164	259	82	97	602
Sri Lanka	68	114	44	43	269
Afghanistan	14	122	5	90	231
Iraq	30	92	22	38	182
Vietnam	6	7	5	9	27
Other	71	140	40	62	313
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1624</b>

## Children in Immigration Detention

As at 31 May 2012, there were 516 children (aged under 18 years) in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention. The increase in the number of children accommodated in alternative places of detention during recent months was due to a rapid increase in irregular maritime arrivals (including children) during those months. 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 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

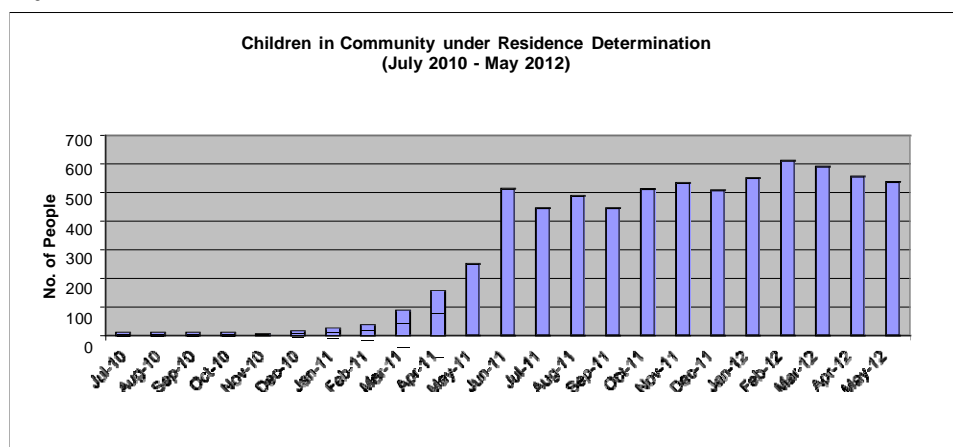


Figure 8

Children in Immigration Detention as at 31 May 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	6
Immigration Transit Accommodation	0
Alternative Places of Detention	510
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>

<b>Children in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>537</b>
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## Time in Detention

Of the 6530 people in immigration detention (including residence determination) as at 31 May 2012, around 38% had been detained for 3 months or less and 78% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 31 May 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	173	2.6%
8 days - 31 days	1478	22.6%
32 days - 91 days	824	12.6%
92 days - 182 days	2008	30.8%
183 days - 365 days	613	9.4%
366 days - 547 days	517	7.9%
548 days - 730 days	484	7.4%
Greater than 730 days	433	6.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6530</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 277 days in November 2011 to 113 days in May 2012.

Figure 10

