



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

## Immigration Detention Statistics Summary

31 December 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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## IMMIGRATION DETENTION STATISTICS SUMMARY

Detention Operations Division, DIAC - As at 31 December 2012

There were 7237 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention, including 5005 in immigration detention on the mainland and 2232 in immigration detention on Christmas Island as at 31 December 2012. Separately, 1822 people have been approved for a residence determination to live in the community. December 2012 has seen a decrease in arrivals, including children.

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 (31/11/12)
Christmas Island IDC	853			853	+ 40
Curtin IDC	932			932	- 607
Maribyrnong IDC	88	6		94	- 5
Northern IDC (Darwin)	341			341	- 57
Perth IDC	28			28	- 10
Pontville IDC	94			94	+ 94
Scherger IDC	499			499	+ 8
Villawood IDC	302	48		350	- 8
Wickham Point IDC	690			690	- 401
Yongah Hill IDC	454			454	- 197
<b>Total in IDCs</b>	<b>4281</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>4335</b>	<b>- 1143</b>
Perth Immigration Residential Housing	5	5	10	20	+ 8
Port Augusta Immigration Residential Housing	13	9	17	39	- 11
Sydney Immigration Residential Housing	8	9	12	29	+ 1
Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation				0	- 20
Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation	44	8	9	61	- 9
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	72		29	101	- 16
<b>Total in Immigration Residential Housing and Immigration Transit Accommodation</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>- 47</b>
Alternative Places of Detention <sup>2</sup> (Christmas Island)	375	390	614	1379	+ 25
Alternative Places of Detention (Mainland)	498	245	530	1273	- 47
Restricted on Board Vessels in Port				0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5296</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>7237</b>	<b>- 1212</b>

<b>People in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>1822</b>	<b>+ 106</b>
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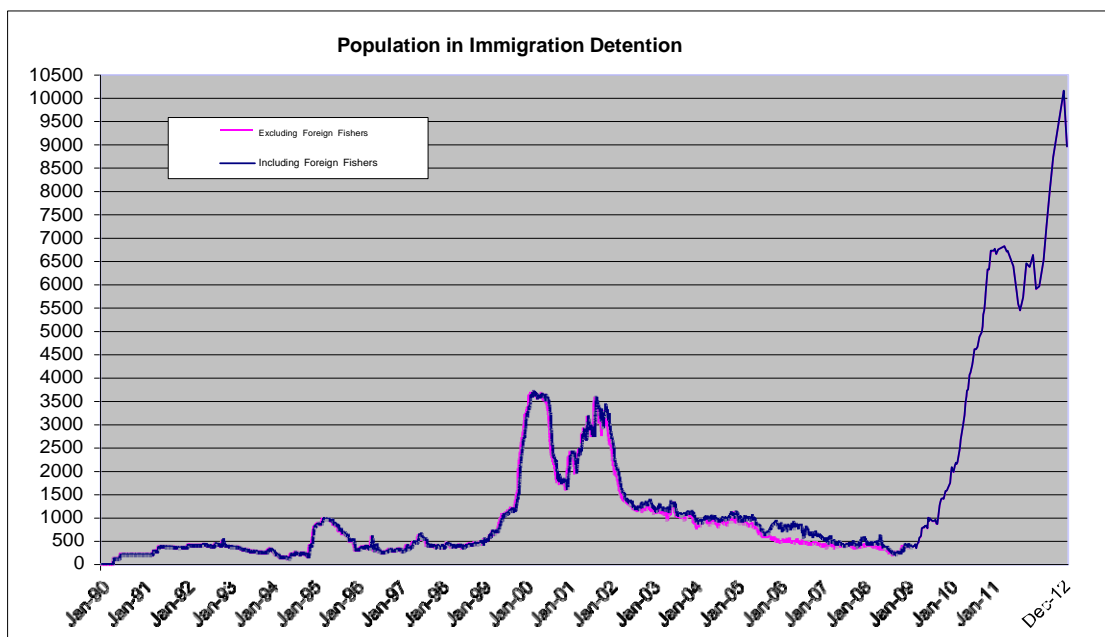
<sup>1</sup> Immigration detention as set out under s 189 or s 249 of the Migration Act 1958.

<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 December 2012.

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

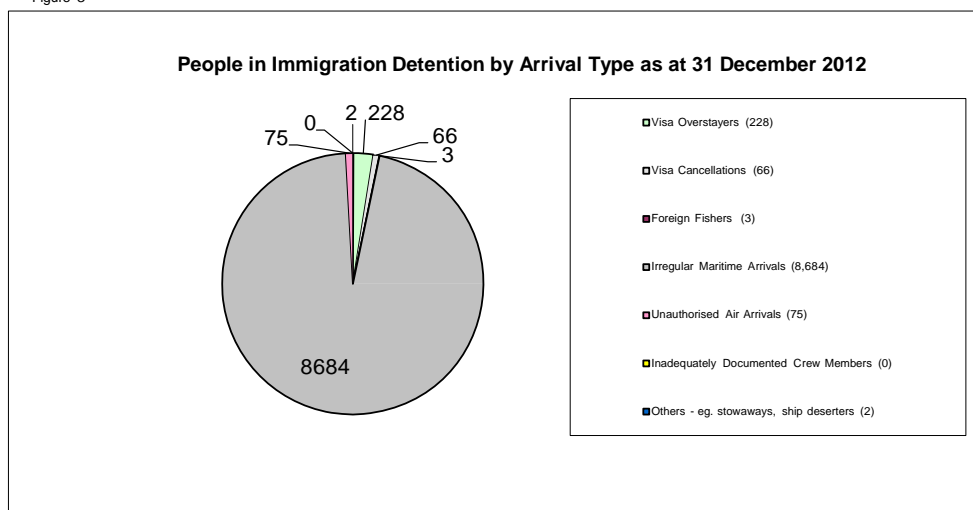
Figure 2



## People in Immigration Detention by Arrival Type

The number of people in immigration detention who arrived unlawfully by air or boat as at 31 December 2012 was 8759 (IMA and Unauthorised Air Arrival), representing about 96 per cent of the total immigration detention population. There were also 294 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 7237 people in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention as at 31 December 2012, around 44% were Sri Lankan nationals, 15% were Iranian nationals and 14% were Afghan nationals.

Figure 4

People in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention as at 31 December 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Sri Lanka	211	2658	121	224	3214
Iran	245	546	116	157	1064
Afghanistan	39	748	28	209	1024
Iraq	51	192	41	63	347
Pakistan	12	224	6	34	276
Indonesia	7	251	3	9	270
Bangladesh		109			109
China, Peoples Republic Of	23	63			86
Burma	12	38	7	15	72
Vietnam	8	45	4	8	65
Other	112	422	75	101	710
<b>Total</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>5296</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>7237</b>

Of the 1822 people approved to live in the community under residence determinations as at 31 December 2012, around 31% were Iranian nationals, 20% were Sri Lankan nationals and 16% were Afghan nationals.

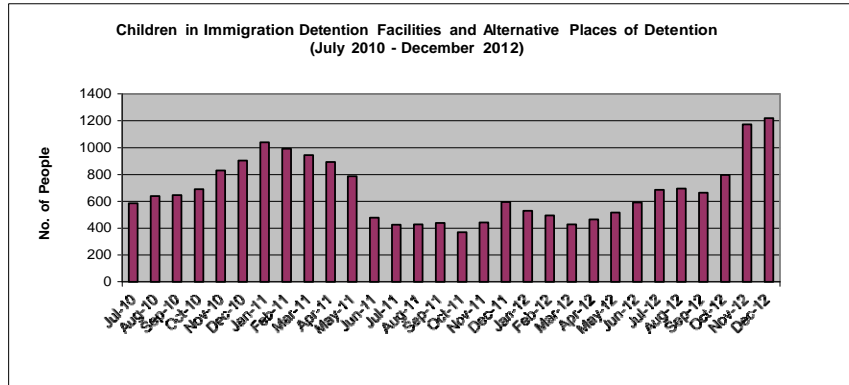
Figure 5

People in Community under Residence Determination as at 31 December 2012					
Nationalities	Adult		Child (<18 years)		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Iran	158	222	87	102	569
Sri Lanka	62	145	40	109	356
Afghanistan	28	122	15	125	290
Iraq	31	62	17	28	138
Palestinian Authority	21	24	28	17	90
Other	82	133	56	108	379
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1822</b>

## Children in Immigration Detention

As at 31 December 2012, there were 1221 children (aged under 18 years) in immigration detention facilities and alternative places of detention. The increase in the number of children in detention facilities for December 2012 is due to a rapid increase in irregular maritime arrivals during October and November 2012. The majority of children in facilities-based detention have been in detention for less than two months. No children are detained in immigration detention centres.

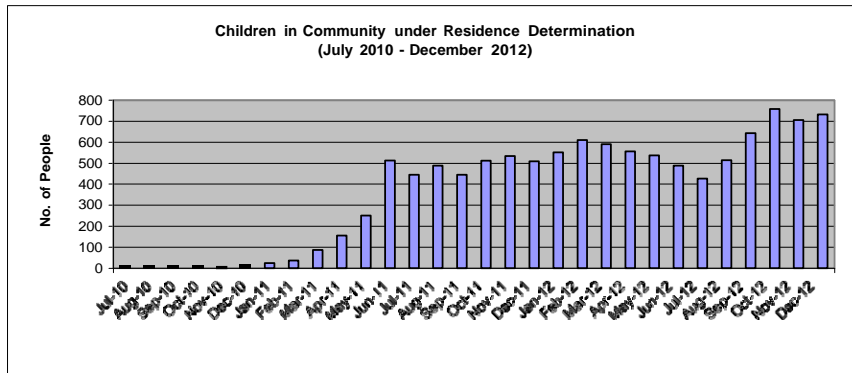
Figure 6



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 December 2012, 1221 children remained in immigration detention while undergoing initial processing, 732 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 December 2012	
Type	Total
Immigration Residential Housing	39
Immigration Transit Accommodation	38
Alternative Places of Detention	1144
<b>Total</b>	<b>1221</b>
<b>Children in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>732</b>
<b>Children Granted Bridging Visa E (BVE)</b>	<b>90</b>

## Time in Detention

Of the 9059 people in immigration detention as at 31 December 2012, around 52% had been detained for 3 months or less and 89% had been detained for 12 months or less.

Figure 9

Length of Time in Detention as at 31 December 2012		
Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	45	0.5%
8 days - 31 days	1104	12.2%
32 days - 91 days	3576	39.5%
92 days - 182 days	2648	29.2%
183 days - 365 days	763	8.4%
366 days - 547 days	171	1.9%
548 days - 730 days	161	1.8%
Greater than 730 days	591	6.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9059</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average period of people held in detention facilities has significantly decreased from 204 days in December 2011 to 95 days in December 2012.

Figure 10

