



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

28 February 2021

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About this report

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

As data is sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems, data relating to the immigration detention population is dynamic and variations between monthly reports 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:

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/immigration-detention>

Enquiries

Comments or enquiries concerning this report should be sent using the Department's client service feedback form quoting the name and date of the report.

See: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us>

Acronyms

Table 1 – Acronyms used in this document

Acronym	Description
APOD	Alternative Place of Detention
IMA	Illegal Maritime Arrival
IDC/F	Immigration Detention Centre/Facility
IRH	Immigration Residential Housing
ITA	Immigration Transit Accommodation
S501	Section 501 of the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> (the Migration Act)
S501 Visa Cancellation	Visa cancellations based on character or related grounds

Important Notice on APODs

From July 2020, detainees residing in APODs are reported under 'APODs' rather than under the ITA or IDC that had responsibility for their management and care. APODs include hospitals, aged-care facilities, mental health inpatient facilities, as well as hotel and apartment style accommodation. The number of individuals in APODs is provided by the State and Territory of the APODs.

Immigration Detention And Community Statistics Summary

At 28 February 2021, there were 1527 people in immigration detention facilities, including 1306 in immigration detention on the mainland and 221 in immigration detention on Christmas Island.

Of the 1527 people in immigration detention facilities, 1203 (78.8%) have a criminal history.

A further 537 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination and 12,255 IMAs were living in the community after grant of a Bridging Visa E.

The table below reflects figures based on records in Department of Home Affairs systems.

Table 2 – People in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs), Alternative Places of Detention (APODs), Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITA) and the Community at 28 February 2021

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/01/21
NSW					
Villawood IDC	463	20	0	483	- 7
APODs	<15	<5	<5	<15	- <5
VIC					
Melbourne ITA	<210	<10	0	215	- 3
APODs	20	0	0	20	+ 1
QLD					
Brisbane ITA	112	0	0	112	+ 8
APODs	<80	<5	0	80	- 6
SA					
Adelaide ITA	<25	<5	0	25	+ 4
APODs	<5	0	0	<5	- <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	<320	0	0	<320	+ <60
Perth IDC	17	7	0	24	+ 1
APODs	5	0	0	5	+ <5
North West Point IDC	<220	0	0	<220	- <15
Christmas Island APODs	<5	<5	<5	<5	0
NT					
Northern APOD	8	7	0	15	0
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
Total IDCs	1,011	27	0	1,038	+ 38
Total APODs	123	<15	<5	137	- 4
Total ITAs	344	8	0	352	+ 9
Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs	1,478	<50	<5	1,527	+ 43
Total in Community under Residence Determination	192	164	181	537	- 3
Total IMAs in Community on Bridging Visa E (Including people in a re-grant process)	8,912	1,503	1,840	12,255	- 83

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/01/21
S501 Visa Cancellation	736	<25	<5	760	+ 23
Illegal Maritime Arrival	426	<15	<5	442	+ 11
Other	316	9	0	325	+ 9
Total	1,478	<50	<5	1,527	+ 43

In Community under Residence Determination Population By State/Territory

Of the 537 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 47.7 per cent were in Victoria, 32.0 per cent in Queensland, 15.5 per cent in New South Wales, 3.2 per cent in South Australia, 1.7 per cent in Western Australia.

Table 3 – People in the Community under Residence Determination by State/Territory at 28 February 2021

State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	30	32	21	83
Victoria	93	76	87	256
Queensland	57	47	68	172
South Australia	<10	<10	<5	17
Western Australia	<5	<5	<5	9
Total	192	164	181	537

Immigration Detention Population

From January 1990 to Current

The overall number of people in immigration detention including in the community under residence determination has decreased by 222 to 2064 compared with 2286 at the end of February 2020. This number takes into account detainees in the community under residence determination and detainees who were held in immigration detention facilities as at 28 February 2021.

Figure 1 – Population in Immigration Detention

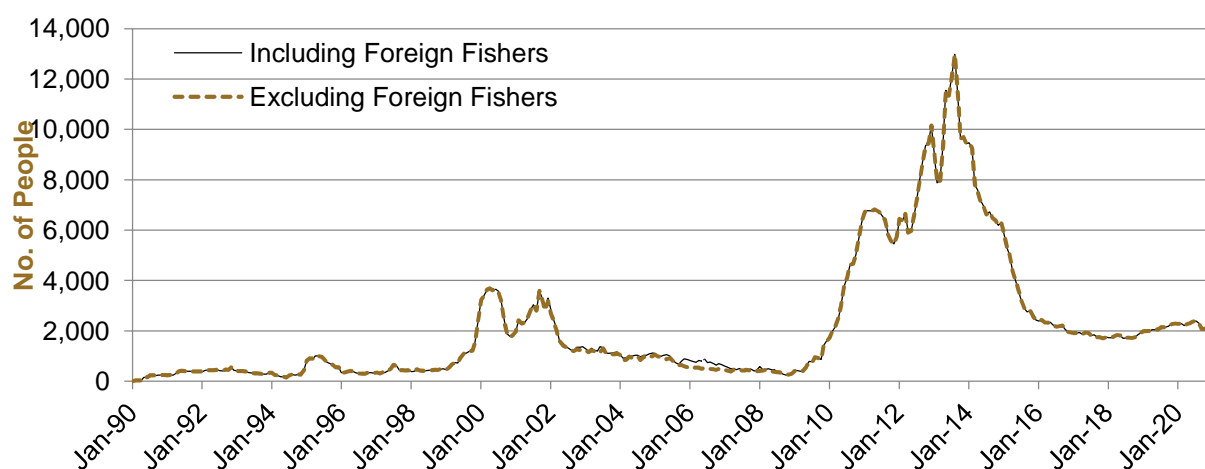


Figure 1 above, shows the number of people in immigration detention from 1990 to the date of this report.

People In Immigration Detention Facilities

Arrival Type

There were 454 people who arrived unlawfully by air or boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 28 February 2021 representing 29.7 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 1073 people (70.3 per cent of the total immigration population) who arrived in Australia lawfully and were subsequently taken into immigration detention for either overstaying or having their visas cancelled for breaching visa conditions.

Figure 2 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group

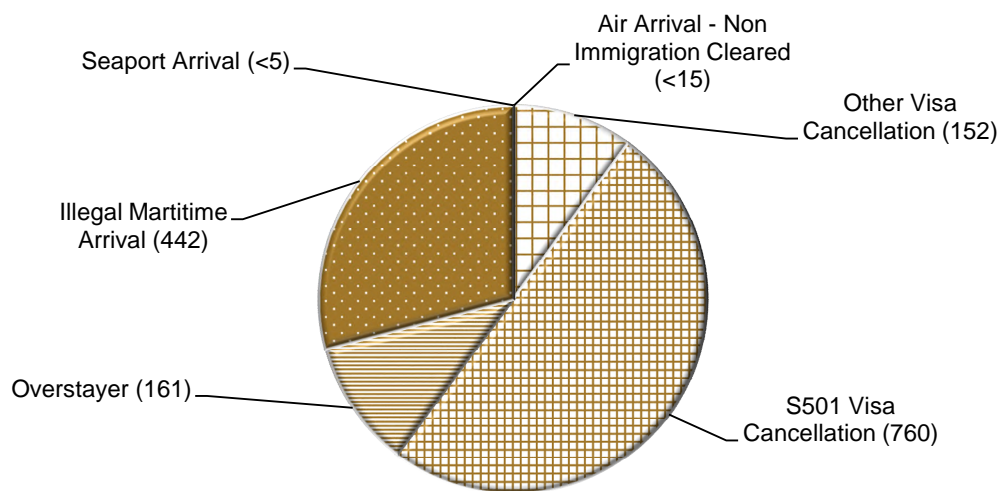


Figure 2 above, shows the number of people in held immigration detention facilities by detention group, including Overstayers, S501 and Other Visa Cancellations, Illegal Maritime Arrivals, Unauthorised Air Arrivals, and if applicable – Illegal Foreign Fishers and Others such as stowaways and ship deserters.

Table 4 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Detention Group at 28 February 2021

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	IMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 31/01/21
NSW					
Villawood IDC	243	105	135	483	- 7
APODs	<10	<5	5	<15	- <5
VIC					
Melbourne ITA	88	68	59	215	- 3
APODs	<5	17	<5	20	+ 1
QLD					
Brisbane ITA	<60	50	<5	112	+ 8
APODs	<15	66	<5	80	- 6
SA					
Adelaide ITA	<10	16	<5	25	+ 4
APODs	0	<5	0	<5	- <5
WA					
Yongah Hill IDC	<175	80	60	<320	+ <60
Perth IDC	13	5	6	24	+ 1
APODs	<5	0	<5	5	+ <5
North West Point IDC	<160	13	46	<220	- <15
Christmas Island APODs	0	<5	0	<5	0
NT					
Northern APOD	0	15	0	15	0
APODs	0	0	0	0	0
Total IDCs	588	203	247	1,038	+ 38
Total APODs	21	105	11	137	- 4
Total ITAs	151	134	67	352	+ 9
Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs	760	442	325	1,527	+ 43

* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

People In Immigration Detention

Nationality

At 28 February 2021, there were 1527 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 1527 people, 12.5 per cent were from Iran, 12.5 per cent were from New Zealand, 5.4 per cent were from Vietnam, 5.1 per cent were from Sri Lanka and 5.0 per cent were from Iraq.

Table 5 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Nationality at 28 February 2021

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	182	9	0	191
New Zealand	175	<20	<5	191
Vietnam	77	5	0	82
Sri Lanka	74	<5	<5	78
Iraq	77	0	0	77
Sudan	<75	<5	0	75
United Kingdom	<75	<5	0	74
India	68	0	0	68
Afghanistan	55	0	0	55
Pakistan	49	0	0	49
Other	577	10	0	587
Total	1,478	<50	<5	1,527

At 28 February 2021, 537 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 537 people, 52.5 per cent were from Iran, 11.0 per cent were from Sri Lanka, 10.8 percent were Stateless, 10.1 per cent were from Somalia and 2.2 per cent were from Pakistan.

Table 6 – People in the Community under Residence Determination by Nationality at 28 February 2021

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	87	97	98	282
Sri Lanka	22	13	24	59
Stateless	25	12	21	58
Somalia	18	20	16	54
Pakistan	<15	<5	<5	12
Other	<35	<25	<25	72
Total	192	164	181	537

Children In Immigration Detention

At 28 February 2021 there were less than five children (aged less than 18 years) in Immigration Residential Housing, Immigration Transit Accommodation and Alternative Places of Detention.

Figure 3 – Children in Immigration Residential Housing, Immigration Transit Accommodation and Alternative Places of Detention

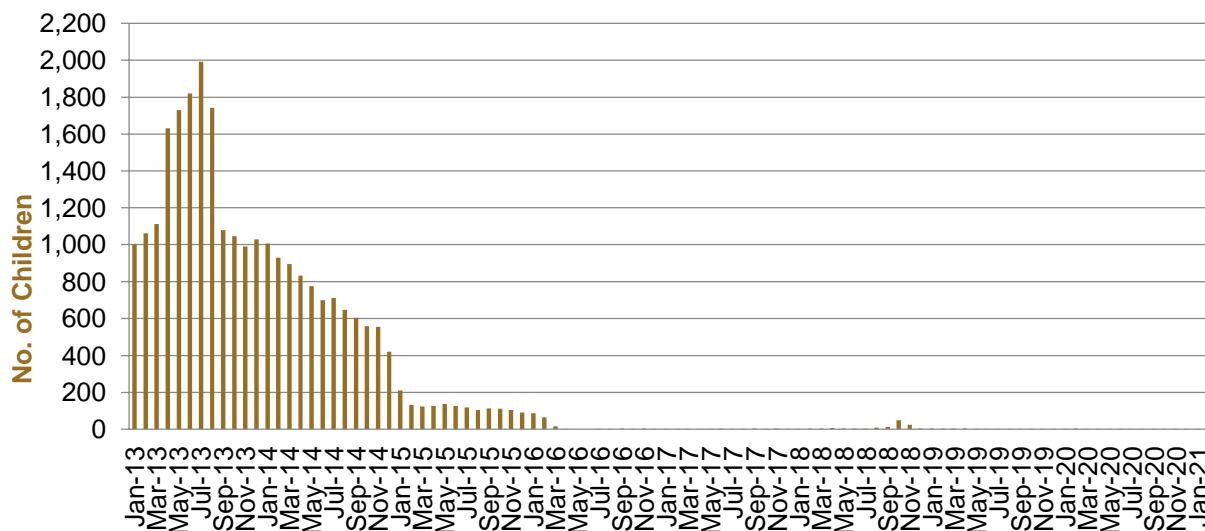


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in IMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs decreased in September 2013, as children completed mandatory processing and were transferred into the community. The number of children in IDFs continued to decline during the late 2013 and 2014, with further reduction in January 2015. The increase in the number of children in APODs from August 2018 was following transfers from Nauru to Australia (with family members).

At 28 February 2021, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has decreased by one to 181 from 182 in the previous report.

Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination

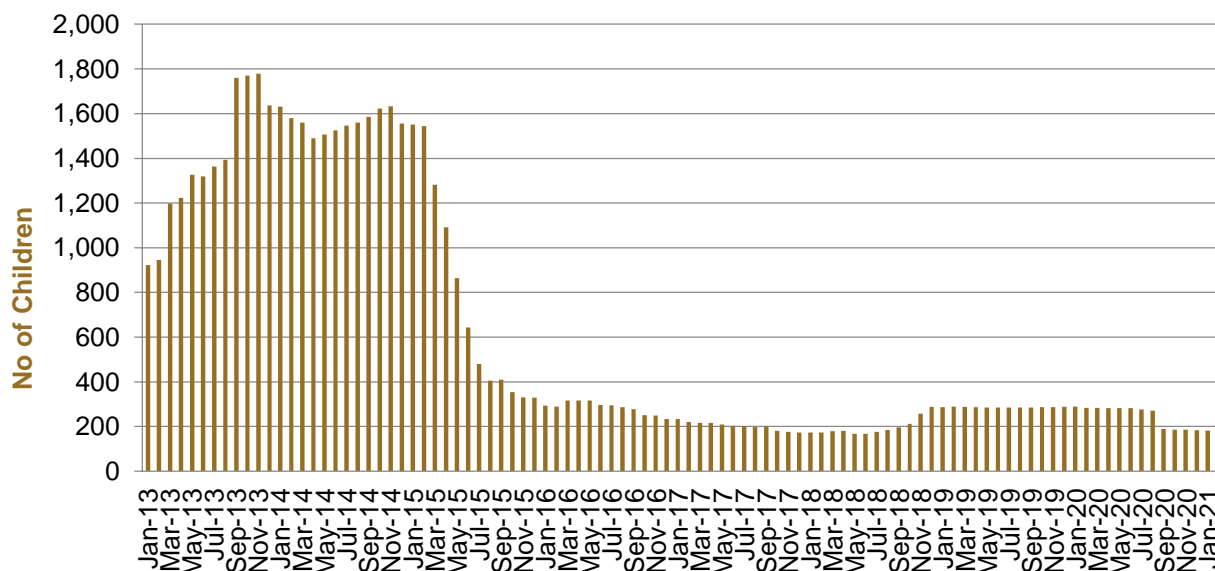


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2012 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases into the community on Bridging E visas.

Table 7 – Children in Immigration Detention and IMA Children in the Community on a Bridging E Visa at 28 February 2021

Placement Type	Children
Immigration Residential Housing	0
Immigration Transit Accommodation	0
Alternative Places of Detention	<5
Total Facility	<5
Total in the Community under a Residence Determination	181
Total IMAs in the Community on a Bridging E visa (including in re-grant process)	1,840

Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 28 February 2021, there were 1527 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 1527 people, 18.2 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 43.5 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

Table 8 – Length of Time of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities at 28 February 2021

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	37	2.4%
8 days - 31 days	85	5.6%
32 days - 91 days	156	10.2%
92 days - 182 days	157	10.3%
183 days - 365 days	230	15.1%
366 days - 547 days	234	15.3%
548 days - 730 days	180	11.8%
731 days - 1095 days	185	12.1%
1096 days - 1460 days	112	7.3%
1461 days - 1825 days	45	2.9%
Greater than 1825 days	106	6.9%
Total	1,527	100%

At 28 February 2021, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 627 days.

Figure 5 – Average Number of Days of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities only

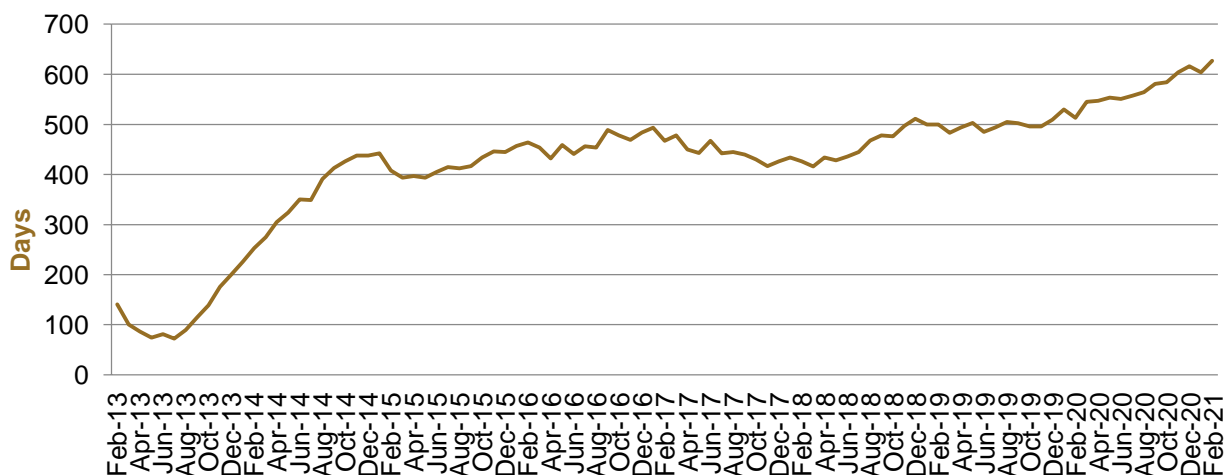


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019 the average number of days remained around 500. Since January 2020 the average period of time for people held in detention facilities has steadily increased.

The time an individual spends in immigration detention depends on a range of factors, including the complexity of their case, the legal processes they pursue and whether they voluntarily choose to leave Australia.

Time In Community Under Residence Determination

Of the 537 people in the community under residence determination, as at 28 February 2021, 0 per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and 5.6 per cent had been in the community for 365 days or less.

Table 9 – Length of Time of People in Community under Residence Determination at 28 February 2021

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	0	0.0%
8 days - 31 days	0	0.0%
32 days - 91 days	0	0.0%
92 days - 182 days	<30	<5.6%
183 days - 365 days	<5	<0.9%
366 days - 547 days	28	5.2%
548 days - 730 days	40	7.4%
731 days - 1095 days	228	42.5%
1096 days - 1460 days	43	8.0%
1461 days - 1825 days	95	17.7%
Greater than 1825 days	73	13.6%
Total	537	100%