



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs



Australian  
**BORDER FORCE**

# Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary

31 January 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 31 January 2021, there were 1484 people in immigration detention facilities, including 1251 in immigration detention on the mainland and 233 in immigration detention on Christmas Island.

Of the 1484 people in immigration detention facilities, 1178 (79.4%) have a criminal history.

A further 540 people were living in the community after being approved for residence determination and 12338 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 31 January 2021**

Place of immigration detention by State*	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/12/20
<b>NSW</b>					
Villawood IDC	471	19	0	<b>490</b>	+ 27
APODs	<15	<5	0	<b>&lt;15</b>	+ <10
<b>VIC</b>					
Melbourne ITA	211	7	0	<b>218</b>	- 1
APODs	19	0	0	<b>19</b>	- 48
<b>QLD</b>					
Brisbane ITA	104	0	0	<b>104</b>	- 3
APODs	<85	<5	0	<b>86</b>	+ 5
<b>SA</b>					
Adelaide ITA	21	0	0	<b>21</b>	- 2
APODs	<5	0	0	<b>&lt;5</b>	- <5
<b>WA</b>					
Yongah Hill IDC	258	0	0	<b>258</b>	- 7
Perth IDC	15	8	0	<b>23</b>	+ <5
APODs	<5	0	0	<b>&lt;5</b>	- 2
North West Point IDC	229	0	0	<b>229</b>	- <5
Christmas Island APODs	<5	<5	<5	<b>&lt;5</b>	0
<b>NT</b>					
Northern APOD	8	7	0	<b>15</b>	0
APODs	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Total IDCs</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>+ 18</b>
<b>Total APODs</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>&lt;15</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>- 41</b>
<b>Total ITAs</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>&lt;50</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>- 29</b>
<b>Total in Community under Residence Determination</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Total IMAs in Community on Bridging Visa E (Including people in a re-grant process)</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>12,338</b>	<b>- 20</b>

\* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.

Detention Group	Men	Women	Children	Total	Change from 31/12/20
S501 Visa Cancellation	712	25	0	<b>737</b>	+ 26
Illegal Maritime Arrival	416	<15	<5	<b>431</b>	- 44
Other	307	9	0	<b>316</b>	- 11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>&lt;50</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>- 29</b>

## In Community under Residence Determination Population By State/Territory

Of the 540 people approved for a residence determination to live in the community, 48.1 per cent were in Victoria, 31.9 per cent in Queensland, 15.2 per cent in New South Wales, 3.1 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 31 January 2021**

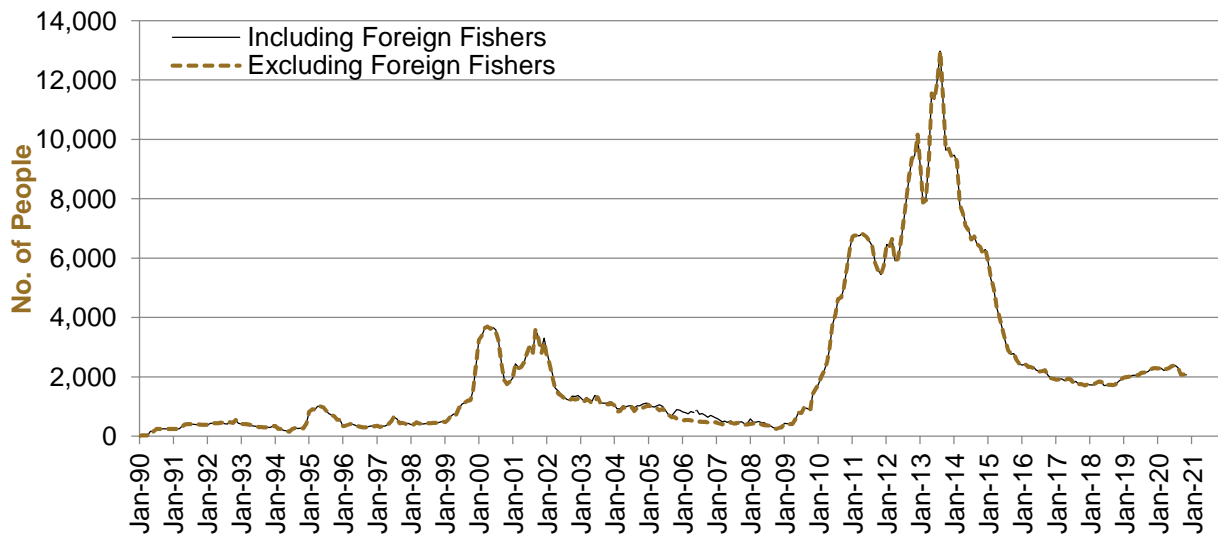
State/Territory	Men	Women	Children	Total
New South Wales	30	32	20	<b>82</b>
Victoria	94	77	89	<b>260</b>
Queensland	57	47	68	<b>172</b>
South Australia	<10	<10	<5	<b>17</b>
Western Australia	<5	<5	<5	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>540</b>

# 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 260 to 2024 compared with 2284 at the end of January 2020. This number takes into account detainees in the community under residence determination and detainees who were held in immigration detention facilities as at 31 January 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.

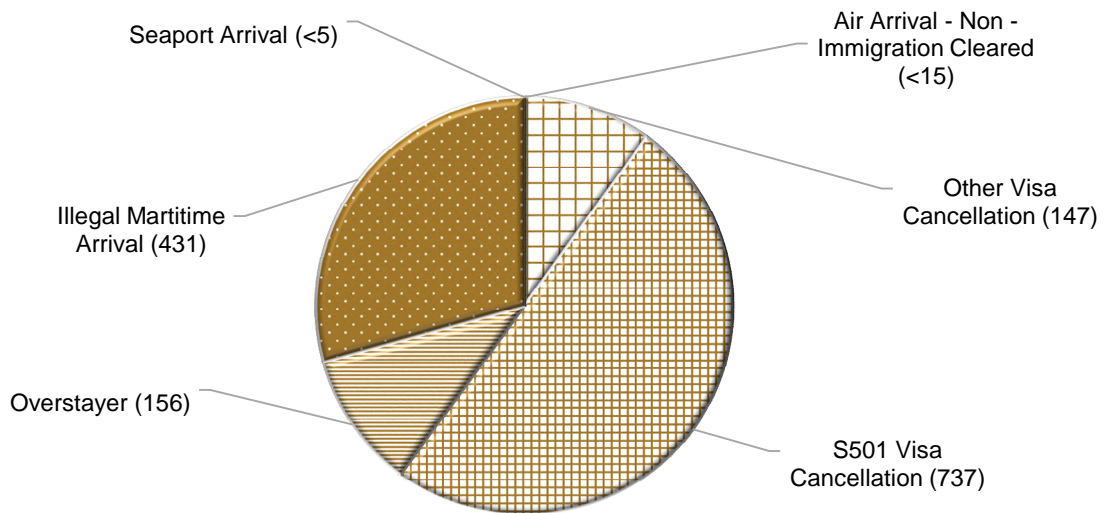
# People In Immigration Detention Facilities

## Arrival Type

There were 444 people who arrived unlawfully by air or boat, in held immigration detention facilities at 31 January 2021 representing 29.9 per cent of the total immigration detention population.

There were also 1040 people (70.1 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 31 January 2021

Place of immigration detention by State*	S501 Visa Cancellation	IMA	Other Detention Group	Total	Change from 31/12/20
<b>NSW</b>					
Villawood IDC	268	96	126	<b>490</b>	+ 27
APODs	<10	<5	<10	<b>&lt;15</b>	+<10
<b>VIC</b>					
Melbourne ITA	89	68	61	<b>218</b>	- 1
APODs	<5	<20	0	<b>19</b>	- 48
<b>QLD</b>					
Brisbane ITA	47	51	6	<b>104</b>	- 3
APODs	15	71	0	<b>86</b>	+ 5
<b>SA</b>					
Adelaide ITA	<5	14	<5	<b>21</b>	- 2
APODs	<5	0	<5	<b>&lt;5</b>	- <5
<b>WA</b>					
Yongah Hill IDC	125	76	57	<b>258</b>	- 7
Perth IDC	12	5	6	<b>23</b>	+ <5
APODs	<5	0	0	<b>&lt;5</b>	- 2
North West Point IDC	167	13	49	<b>229</b>	- <5
Christmas Island APODs	0	<5	0	<b>&lt;5</b>	0
<b>NT</b>					
Northern APOD	0	15	0	<b>15</b>	0
APODs	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Total IDCs</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>+ 18</b>
<b>Total APODs</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>- 41</b>
<b>Total ITAs</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>Total IDCs/APODs/ITAs</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>- 29</b>

\* Refer to Important Notice on APODs on page 3.



# People In Immigration Detention

## Nationality

At 31 January 2021, there were 1484 people in held immigration detention facilities. Of these 1484 people, 12.9 per cent were from Iran, 12.9 per cent were from New Zealand, 5.1 per cent were from Sudan, 5.1 per cent were from Sri Lanka and 5.1 per cent were from Vietnam.

**Table 5 – People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities by Nationality at 31 January 2021**

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	183	9	0	<b>192</b>
New Zealand	175	17	0	<b>192</b>
Sudan	<75	<5	0	<b>76</b>
Sri Lanka	71	<5	<5	<b>75</b>
Vietnam	69	6	0	<b>75</b>
United Kingdom	<75	<5	0	<b>73</b>
Iraq	72	0	0	<b>72</b>
India	67	0	0	<b>67</b>
Afghanistan	55	0	0	<b>55</b>
Pakistan	45	0	0	<b>45</b>
Other	554	8	0	<b>562</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>&lt;50</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>1,484</b>

At 31 January 2021, 540 were people living in the community after being approved for a residence determination. Of these 540 people, 51.9 per cent were from Iran, 11.3 per cent were from Sri Lanka, 10.7 per cent were Stateless, 10.2 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 31 January 2021**

Nationalities	Men	Women	Children	Total
Iran	87	97	96	<b>280</b>
Sri Lanka	23	14	24	<b>61</b>
Stateless	25	12	21	<b>58</b>
Somalia	18	20	17	<b>55</b>
Pakistan	<15	<5	<5	<b>12</b>
Other	<35	<25	<25	<b>74</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>540</b>

# Children In Immigration Detention

At 31 January 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**

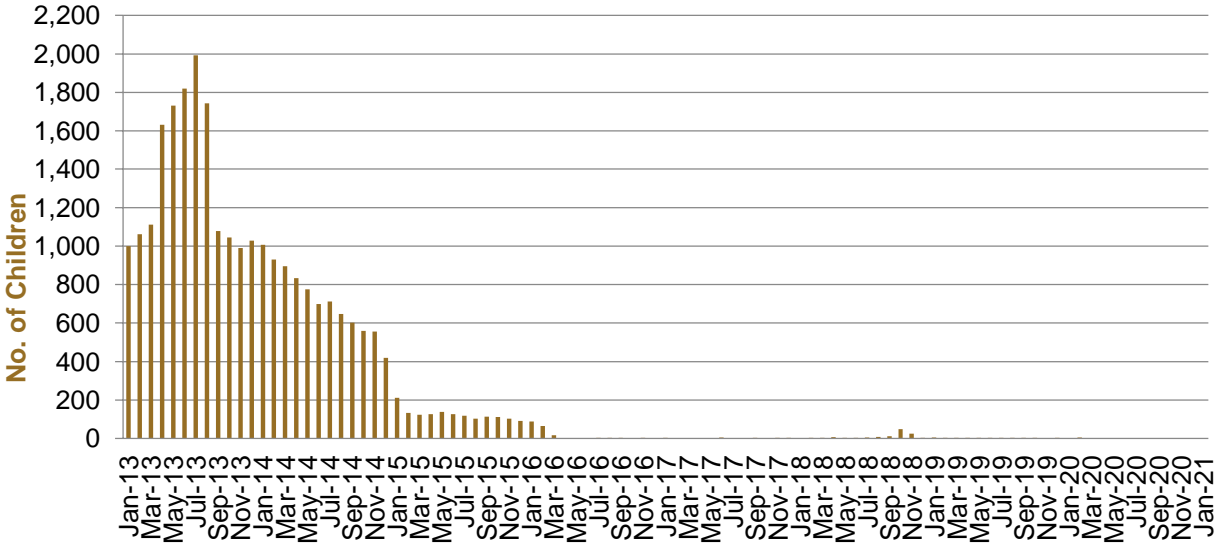


Figure 3 above, shows the number of children in IDFs and APODs from January 2013 to the date of this report. The continuous increase in the number of children in IDFs from April 2013 to Aug 2013 was due to a rapid increase in IMAs during this period. The number of children in IDFs decreased in September 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 31 January 2021, the number of children living in the community after being approved for a residence determination has decreased by one to 182 from 183 in the previous report.

**Figure 4 – Children in the Community under Residence Determination**

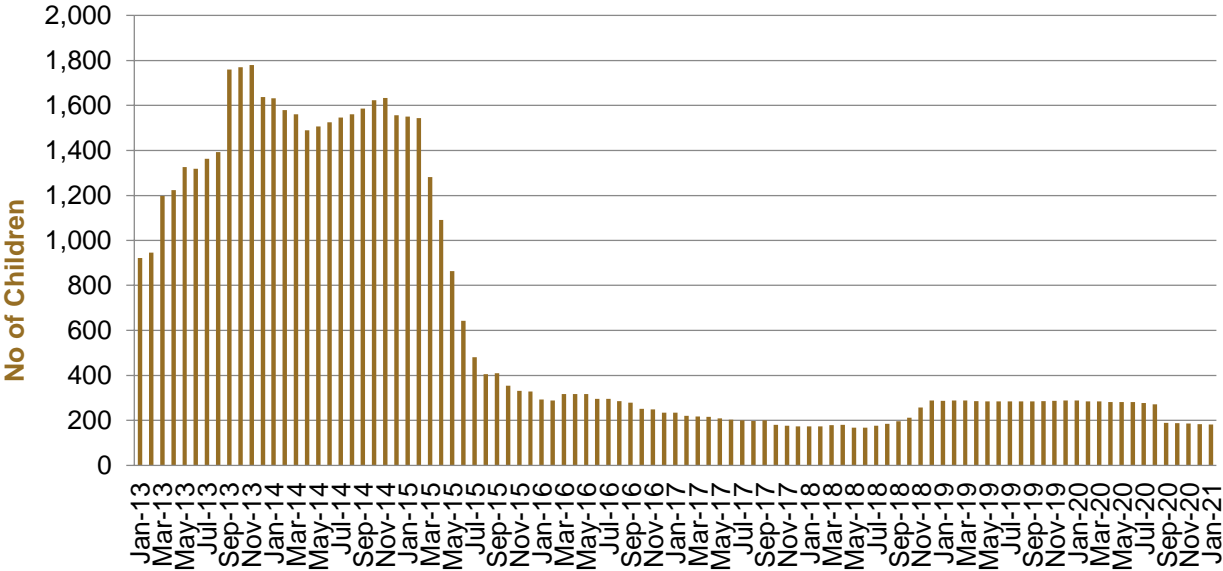


Figure 4 above, shows the number of children in the community under residence determination from January 2012 to the date of this report. The number of children in the community under residence determination, has levelled off at its lowest number since the peak in November 2013, as a result of releases 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 31 January 2021**

Placement Type	Children
Immigration Residential Housing	0
Immigration Transit Accommodation	0
Alternative Places of Detention	<5
<b>Total Facility</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
<b>Total in the Community under a Residence Determination</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Total IMAs in the Community on a Bridging E visa (including in re-grant process)</b>	<b>1,856</b>

# Time In Immigration Detention Facilities

At 31 January 2021, there were 1484 people in immigration detention facilities.

Of these 1484 people, 17.8 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 44.6 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less.

**Table 8 – Length of Time of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities at 31 January 2021**

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	18	1.2%
8 days - 31 days	83	5.6%
32 days - 91 days	163	11.0%
92 days - 182 days	140	9.4%
183 days - 365 days	258	17.4%
366 days - 547 days	232	15.6%
548 days - 730 days	151	10.2%
731 days - 1095 days	182	12.3%
1096 days - 1460 days	108	7.3%
1461 days - 1825 days	45	3.0%
Greater than 1825 days	104	7.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>100%</b>

At 31 January 2021, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities was 629 days.

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

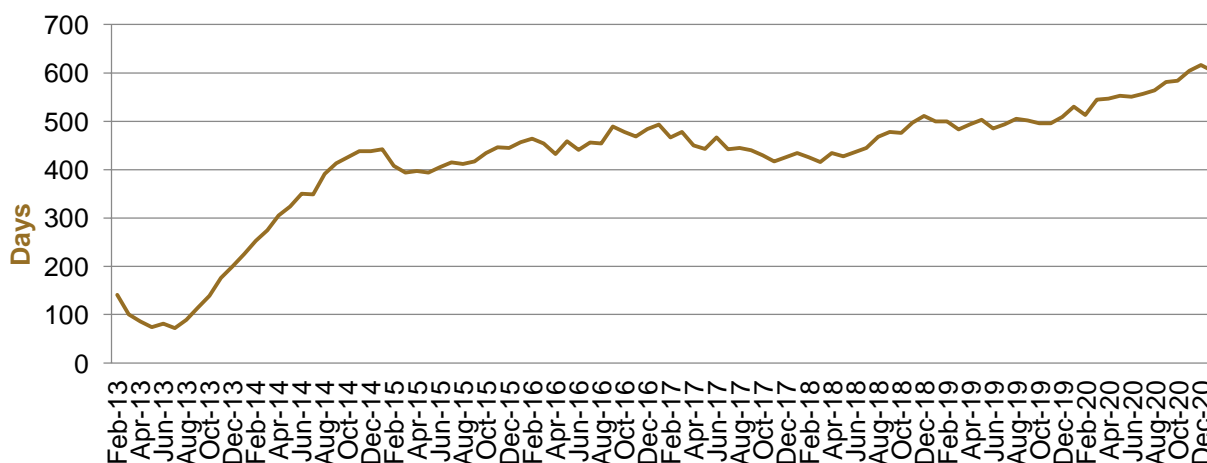


Figure 5 above, shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019 the 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 540 people in the community under residence determination, as at 31 January 2021, 4.6 per cent had been in the community for 91 days or less and 5.9 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 31 January 2021**

Period Detained	Total	% of Total
7 days or less	0	0.0%
8 days - 31 days	0	0.0%
32 days - 91 days	25	4.6%
92 days - 182 days	0	0.0%
183 days - 365 days	7	1.3%
366 days - 547 days	35	6.5%
548 days - 730 days	33	6.1%
731 days - 1095 days	235	43.5%
1096 days - 1460 days	43	8.0%
1461 days - 1825 days	115	21.3%
Greater than 1825 days	47	8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>100%</b>