

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Wrongful detention of Australian citizens overseas

QoN Number: 1

Subject: Iranian Ambassador canvassing Extradition Treaty

Asked by: Claire Chandler

Question:

Chair: Earlier this year the Iranian ambassador met with DFAT officials and reportedly discussed the possibility of an extradition treaty with those officials and I note that you made some reference to the legality or lack thereof of foreign governments attempting to remove Australians from here. Was the Department of Home Affairs briefed at all by DFAT on what the Iranian ambassador was seeking in that instance?

David Chick: Might take that on notice if I can just because to get that answer it crosses the Department. I'm not aware of it in the Counter Foreign Interference Coordination Centre but you probably want to know across the Department so I'll take that on notice and get back to you.

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade met with the Iranian Ambassador in June 2024, during which the Ambassador raised a range of matters. The Department of Home Affairs was represented at that meeting.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Wrongful detention of Australian citizens overseas

QoN Number: 2

Subject: Support for Australians who have been wrongfully detained

Asked by: Claire Chandler

Question:

Chair: I have another question that I suspect you might have to take on notice because I don't think it is your specific section but I'm hoping some friendly people at Home Affairs will be listening in. We have heard from a number of witnesses throughout this inquiry of concerns regarding wrongfully detained Australians coming back into the country having a black mark on their record, so to speak, because they have to declare that they have been arrested or been detained or whatever the case may be. Does Home Affairs have any role to play around a framework or a policy that could be put in place to ensure that those Australians can at least freely or more freely travel overseas than they are currently able to or is this again something that I would have to talk to DFAT about? I'm just thinking about the border security role.

David Chick: It is a very interesting policy question that came up through this morning. Just because I come from a niche area I'm not able to support, and it looks like something with a cross government - or within Home Affairs, it would be somewhere else in Home Affairs; I can at least reach out to them as you've foreshadowed and see if they have any thoughts on the policy approach to managing that, it seems like a genuine problem.

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the Australian Government agency that would consider any framework or policy that could be put in place to enable Australians that have been subject to arbitrary detention overseas to more freely travel overseas despite their history of wrongful detention.