

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

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Question: Is that [the decision to suspend processing for individuals from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan] a proposal which came from the department?

Answer: The suspension of processing of asylum claims for individuals from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan was a result of an iterative process of policy development based on discussions between the department and the government. This resulted in the announcement by Minister Evans on 9 April 2010 to immediately suspend processing of new asylum claims from Sri Lankan and Afghan nationals, for a period of three months and six months respectively, while country information and related guidelines for refugee status determination were reviewed.