

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(46) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

There were a number of Questions on Notice submitted during the last round of Estimates in November 2005 relating to Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law about the deportation of the Bakhtiyari family.

Senator Kirk asked - Was the Asghar Ali person deemed to be Ali Bakhtiyari claimed by Roqia Bakhtiyari's cousin "as an Afghan who had no right to be sent to Pakistan" born in 1957, 1959, 1961 or 1971 as verified by the Pakistan embassy?

Question 118 was answered:

Ali Asghar Bakhtiyari has been confirmed as having his date of birth in 1957 and this was verified by the Pakistani Government when they identified him.

How was date of birth in 1957 confirmed given that:

- In the letters sent from the Pakistan High Commission on 8 December 2003 it states only that a person named Asghar Ali was born in 1971.
- In the letter dated 17 December 2004 given to the Senate and written by Mr Jim Williams he has asked for a travel document in the name of Asqar Ali Bakhtiyari born 1961.
- On the travel document marked "Refused to Sign" it says Asghar Ali DOB 1957.
- Can the Minister provide all of these documents as there seems to be a great deal of uncertainty within a span of 14 years?

Answer:

The Australian Government cannot speak on behalf of the Pakistani Government regarding its identity checking processes.

There have been numerous investigations into Mr Bakhtiyari's identity, including into the various dates of birth that had been provided. It was the identity of Mr Asghar Ali Bakhtiyari with the date of birth in 1957 that was confirmed as his true identity by the Pakistani Government.

The documents referred to are attached.