

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(355) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Trood asked:

According to media reports, speakers at the conference organised by Hizb ut-Tahrir (HUT) in Sydney on 4 July 2010 year included two leaders of HUT in Britain, Burhan Hanif and Salim Atchia.

- A. Why did the government decide to allow these individuals to visit Australia to participate in the Hizb ut-Tahrir conference?
- B. Did the government consider Hizb ut-Tahrir's violently anti-semitic views and the risk of such individuals encouraging extremist views and stirring up community tensions?

Answer:

All persons applying for visas to travel to Australia are checked against DIAC's principal electronic alert list, the Movement Alert List (MAL), prior to a visa being granted. MAL records details of persons of concern to Australia for reasons including national security. Where an alert is of national security interest it is automatically referred to ASIO for advice before the applicant is granted a visa.

Mr Hanif and Mr Atchia applied for and were granted offshore on-line visas to travel to Australia in June and May 2010 respectively. As neither person matched any current movement alert guidelines they were not referred to ASIO for security checking.