

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(357) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Trood asked:

British Prime Minister Cameron has committed his government to banning preachers of hate from visiting the UK.

A: Is the Australian government also committed to banning preachers of hate from visiting Australia?

B: In what circumstances when foreign individuals plan to visit Australia for political reasons does the government refuse to grant entry?

Answer:

A There is capacity, under the character requirement under section 501 of the Migration Act 1958, to refuse a visa where a person is assessed as representing a significant risk that they may vilify or incite discord, or otherwise represent a danger to the Australian community.

B. A person may be refused certain visas, including Short Stay Business and Religious Worker visas, for failure to meet Public Interest Criteria (PIC) 4003. PIC 4003 requires that the applicant is determined by the Foreign Minister, not to be a person whose presence in Australia is, or would be, [contrary to Australia's foreign policy interests](#).