

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(196) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

Which countries accept 'failed' asylum seekers without signed documents and under what circumstances are they accepted?

Answer:

Foreign governments consider requests for travel documents on a case by case basis. The Department does not keep a list of countries that allow their nationals to be returned on unsigned travel documents. This is because the practice of foreign governments may vary over time and also because the Department will make efforts to obtain travel documents notwithstanding previous difficulties obtaining such documents.

The Department's experience is that the majority of countries will issue involuntary removees with a travel document, or allow the person to be returned on an Australian Certificate of Identity, if the country is satisfied that the person is one of its nationals.