

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(206) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

Why did DIMA decide that Asqar Ali Bakhtiyari, DOB 1961 as confirmed by DIMA after ASIO checks was really Asghar Ali, DOB 15/4/1957 from Quetta based merely on an unsubstantiated old NIC application form? The photograph on the document is of a young boy from 1975 and the translation is incomplete in the area of education so why was the decision made that this non-Hazara boy was the adult Hazara Ali Bakhtiyari?

Answer:

Mr Bakhtiyari informed the Department in his initial interview that he was born in 1961. This was later corrected and confirmed by the Pakistani High Commission to show he was born in 1957.

Mr Bakhtiyari's Pakistani National Identity Card, issued in 1975, confirms that he is Asghar Ali Bakhtiyari born in 1957. A facial recognition expert, external to the Department, identified Mr Bakhtiyari to be the same person whose photograph is on this identity card.

The Government of Pakistan also confirmed this identity for Mr Bakhtiyari and issued him with a travel document with this name and date of birth.