

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27- 28 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(80) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Joyce asked:

- (1) How do Hazara living in Afghanistan make an application to immigrate to Australia?
- (2) How do Hazara living in Pakistan make an application to immigrate to Australia?

Answer:

- (1) All migration and humanitarian applications for nationals of Afghanistan, including people from a Hazara ethnic background, are processed at the Australian Consulate General in Dubai.

An application can be lodged directly to the office in Dubai or to the nearest immigration office overseas (including Islamabad). An application can be sent by post or courier. There is no need for the visa applicant or their family to travel to Dubai to lodge an application.

Where a relative or organisation is proposing (or sponsoring) a humanitarian application, the application should be lodged at the Offshore Humanitarian Processing Centre in Melbourne.

- (2) If the person is an Afghan national living in Pakistan, they should lodge the migration or humanitarian application in line with the processes described at 80 (1).

All other migration applications for nationals of Pakistan are processed at the Australian Embassy in Bangkok.

An application can be lodged directly to the office in Bangkok or to the nearest immigration office overseas (including Islamabad). An application can be sent by post or by courier. There is no need for the visa applicant or their family to travel to Bangkok to lodge an application.

All other humanitarian applications for nationals of Pakistan are processed at the Australian Consulate General in Dubai.

Where a relative or organisation is proposing (or sponsoring) a humanitarian application, the application should be lodged at the Offshore Humanitarian Processing Centre in Melbourne.