

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(32) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Humphries (L&C 67) asked:

What would be the standard way of dealing with a sponsor from Afghanistan who wanted to bring children into Australia and who could not produce any birth certificates? Maybe you could take on notice just a description of what typically would be the process if there were a lack of documentation.

Answer:

If official documentary evidence of identity or proof of relationship is lacking, officers consider whatever other evidence is available. In the case of Afghans, officers ask to see the applicant's *taskera*. The *taskera* is the closest equivalent to a birth certificate and is the document usually provided to Afghan authorities to have other documents issued.

Other documentation that may be considered includes marriage certificates, family status certificates, official family books, camp registration records, ration cards or documentation issued by UNHCR and other bodies. Applicants may submit at least two types of other documents such as medical, school, religious, taxation, health insurance, social security or departmental records, wills and testaments, and photographs. Relevant information in any previous migration application will also be considered.

Officers may interview a child to assess their identity or relationship to the sponsor or proposer, depending on the child's age and whether they are a primary or dependent applicant.

Where no documentation is available and depending on the consistency of responses at interview, DNA testing may be requested as a last resort to verify the claimed parent-child relationship.