

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0055) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 95) asked:

Senator CASH: I would now like to refer to Mr Sayed Ali, the Iranian who has reportedly been arrested by Indonesian police for people smuggling. It was reported in The Sydney Morning Herald on 21 May 2013 that he is seen as a kingpin in the people-smuggling network. Is it true, as reported, that he arrived in Australia by boat, was granted a protection visa, has been granted citizenship and, with his family, has been living in Melbourne?

Mr Bowles: I do not know the specifics of the case. We would have to take that on notice.

Senator CASH: Could you also find out for me what is happening in relation to Mr Ali's family members in Australia. Have they joined him? If so, on what visa?

Answer:

Mr Sayed Ali did not arrive to Australia by boat and was not granted a protection visa. Mr Sayed Ali has not been granted Citizenship.

The department is unable to comment further on the status of Mr Sayed Ali's family.