

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(102) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

According to Refugee Advocacy Service of South Australia (RASSA), on at least one occasion, DIMIA or Global Solutions packed an asylum seeker's Christian Baptismal Certificate in their luggage. This person, removed to Iran, had converted to Christianity while in detention. The act of converting from Islam to Christianity can attract the death penalty in Iran. What steps are being taken to ensure this never happens again?

Answer:

The client was given the opportunity to remove items from his luggage prior to boarding his flight, and he did remove at least one item.

Departmental policy, set out at part 45 of Migration Series Instruction 408 (dated 1 November 2005), 'Removal from Australia', is that removees generally be given 48 hours (or more) written notice of their removal. This allows the person time to pack their own belongings.

Additionally, part 38.7 of MSI 408 states:

Before removal commences a removee/deportee is to be given the opportunity to dispose of any possessions they don't wish to take with them.

If a removee wishes to discard any of their possessions during the removal they are to be allowed to do so if this does not impede the removal or contravene any laws.