

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

#### IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

#### **(104) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Kirk asked:

A source in Kabul told journalist McGeough there was no doubt the information in the IDCU's report on Mrs Bakhtiyari dated 19 December 2004 was officially communicated to DIMIA. Is this true? Did DIMIA receive this report? Was any of this information within the report conveyed to DIMIA?

*Answer:*

The Identity Checking Unit (IDCU) is an agency of the Afghan Government that provides identity verification services for the Afghan Government. The Afghan Embassy advises the department of its findings in relation to identity investigations, but does not provide it with the IDCU reports.

On 22 December 2004, the Afghan Embassy released a press release stating that the findings of Mrs Bakhtiyari's identity were inconclusive and require further investigation. This was reiterated in a letter from the Afghan Ambassador to the Minister on 27 December 2004.

DIMIA has not received any formal notification from the Afghan Government that any of the Bakhtiyari family are citizens of Afghanistan.

Even if the Afghan Government were to issue a Statement of Identity for members of the Bakhtiyari family it would not change the fact that they have been found by the Government of Pakistan to be nationals of Pakistan.