

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(105) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

Why, when DIMIA knew that it was likely that Mrs Bakhtiyari and her children were Afghans – and that further information to confirm this was on its way - did they rush to deport them?

Answer:

Mrs Bakhtiyari and her children had their nationality thoroughly considered and were confirmed to be Pakistani nationals who could be returned safely to Pakistan.

There was no “rush” to remove the Bakhtiyari family. The family went through a lengthy formal process and had ample opportunity to raise any claims they wished to make. Those processes had found that they were not refugees in need of protection from Australia. By law, the department was obliged to remove them as soon as reasonably practicable.