

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(107) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

Deputy Secretary of DIMIA Bob Correll told the SMH that the Afghan evidence and the issue of the family's Afghan nationality were irrelevant as they were also citizens of Pakistan. Please explain why the issue of their Afghani citizenship is irrelevant given that the family were denied asylum because they were deemed not to be Afghans.

Answer:

The issue of their Afghan citizenship is irrelevant to the fact that they are entitled as Pakistani nationals to reside in and enter Pakistan, against which they made no asylum claims.

While in Australia, they claimed protection from persecution in Afghanistan – the country in which it appears that at least some family members have now chosen to live, in preference to Pakistan where they are recognised as citizens.