

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(172) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Kerry Nettle (L&CA 88) asked:

It is not a specific case. It is about the circumstances of Afghans here, trying to bring their families from over there. DNA testing has been part of the process for them, and it is a general request. Given their understanding that DNA testing concentrates on the father, can it concentrate on the mother because of issues around rape of Afghan women and the way their families may be shamed if that is revealed? It is also about whether DNA testing can show the parentage through the mother rather than father. It is a general request.

Answer:

DNA testing does not automatically concentrate on the father. DNA testing can be offered for a variety of reasons and this determines which parent will be asked to undergo testing. DNA testing can show parentage through the mother. However, there are cases where DNA testing between a child and its father is required.