

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 42-43) asked:

Have the Iraqi authorities expressed any concerns regarding the program, particularly in terms of loss of workers and capacity at a time when they are trying to build their economy? Has this arisen as an issue or have concerns been raised about Iraqis coming out to Australia?

Answer:

Neither DIAC nor DFAT are aware of any concerns expressed by the Iraqi authorities regarding the LEE visa policy. Further we are not aware of any formal statements expressing concern about the resettlement of Iraqis under the Humanitarian Program.