

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(114) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

In a letter from Mr Jim Williams of DIMIA to Roqia Bakhtiyari dated 25 June 2003, when Roqia was 5 months pregnant, DIMIA offered Mrs Bakhtiyari the option to complete an Afghan passport application form and \$10,000 as part of the Afghan reintegration package if she is accepted as a citizen by the Government of Afghanistan and if she travelled back home to Afghanistan. In light of the fact that DIMIA had refused to accept that Mrs Bakhtiyari was an Afghan citizen, why was this option given to Mrs Bakhtiyari?

Answer:

In 2003 when the offer of the Afghan reintegration package was made to Mrs Bakhtiyari, she was claiming to be an Afghan national.

DIMIA has not refused to accept that Mrs Bakhtiyari is an Afghan national. The fact is that the Afghan authorities have never confirmed that she is Afghan and are continuing to investigate. However, that aside, the Pakistani Government has confirmed her right to enter Pakistan as a national of their country.