

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(117) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

What care was taken to ensure the safety of a 14 month old baby born in Australia and sent to a foreign country? Or a 7 year old who had no memory of her home country?

Answer:

The family concerned had many opportunities to raise issues concerning their safety on return and those raised were thoroughly examined.

The Australian Government respects the principles of state sovereignty and does not monitor citizens of other countries in their homeland. Australia is not responsible for the future wellbeing of people in another country because at some stage they spent time in Australia.

The family concerned was returned as a family unit to a destination where they had right of return and no substantiated safety concerns were raised in relation to that destination.