

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Kirk asked:

A letter from the Australian Hazara Community dated 24 July 2002 was sent to the department, signed by five members of the community, stating that Mr Ali Asqar Bakhtiyari was an Afghan refugee. What consideration was given to that letter.

Answer:

Mr Bakhtiyari's Protection visa was cancelled on 4 December 2002 because the relevant decision maker found that he had provided substantial and significant incorrect information in his visa application. The decision maker took into account a wide range of evidence before him on the issue of his identity and origin, including submissions from his legal representative and a number of supporting statements but found that this was "convincingly outweighed by the evidence provided by the Facial Mapping Analysis" relating to photographic evidence obtained from Pakistan Government identity records.

Mr Bakhtiyari and his family were removed from Australia to Pakistan in December 2004 on travel documents issued by the Government of Pakistan based on its satisfaction that they were nationals of Pakistan.