

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0128) PROGRAMME – ACBPS

Senator Rhiannon (Written) asked:

How does DIBP ensure that it is not working with any Sri Lankan Government officials that are engaged in activities of rape, torture and abuse of Tamils?

Answer:

Any engagement with overseas government officials is undertaken in line with relevant Australian and Sri Lankan law.

The Australian Government has arrangements in place to identify non-citizens potentially involved in criminal behaviour, and to prevent them from entering the country. This includes a layered approach to border management, effective systems to identify persons of concern and a screening process to assess character issues relevant to human rights violations. Individuals suspected of criminal activity may also be identified through information provided by the community.

Non-citizens, irrespective of country of origin or ethnicity, have to meet stringent health, character, identity and national security requirements before any visa grant – criminal behaviour is relevant to the character requirement.

Each case is considered on its merits after reviewing all of the relevant information and circumstances relating to the case.

Any decisions to refuse or cancel a person's visa on character grounds are made in accordance with section 501 of the *Migration Act 1958* (the 'Act').