

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee is currently inquiring into the provisions of the Migration Amendment (Designated Unauthorised Arrivals) Bill 2006.

The committee asked that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provide an answer to the following question on notice in order to assist the committee in its consideration of the Bill.

Question

Does the Government of Nauru contact DFAT, either formally or informally, about decisions to grant visas for Australian citizens who wish to visit Nauru?

Answer

No. The decision to grant visas for entry into Nauru is a matter for the Nauru Government and they do not consult DFAT on these matters.

Question

Has DFAT ever indicated to the Government of Nauru that it would not be desirable for a visa to be issued to an Australian citizen who wished to visit Nauru?

Answer

No. It would not be appropriate for DFAT to interfere with decisions made by the Government of Nauru on visa matters.

Question

Has there been any communication between DFAT and the Government of Nauru, regarding the grant of visas to Australian citizens who wish to visit Nauru?

Answer

No. DFAT does not involve itself in discussing visa issues for Australian citizens with the Government of Nauru.

Question

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, could DFAT provide details of these instances, including emails, cable contact or letter?

Answer

Not applicable

Question

If there is an MOU or other form of agreement, acknowledgement or understanding between the Australian and Nauruan Government can you provide evidence of that the committee?

Answer

An MOU does exist between Australia and Nauru. It is referred to on the DFAT website country information section on Nauru.