



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Multicultural Affairs

ON THE MOVE TO IMPROVE DIMA's progress on Palmer

FACT SHEET

SWEEPING CHANGES TO IDENTITY VERIFICATION SYSTEMS

Identity verification within the department has already been reformed and enhanced and more changes are on the way to sustain these improvements.

The National Identity Verification and Advice (NIVA) section was established in May last year. It oversees and coordinates the department's approach to verifying people's visa status reliably and effectively.

NIVA ensures that complex and sensitive identity issues are dealt with consistently and rapidly.

The section is currently being expanded to handle a wider range of referrals.

Facial recognition software is being developed to help identify detainees and biometric trials are currently underway in detention facilities.

The facial recognition software will be able to compare photographs of detainees with those provided from agencies and people outside the department. This will help to quickly identify people reported as "missing persons" by law enforcement agencies.

A new 24-hour Immigration Status Service was established in February to provide an accurate service to Australian-based police services for checking the immigration status of people at any time.

Under the system, a police officer will be able to contact their dispatcher, who will be able to request details from the Status Service.

www.immi.gov.au/department/dima_improvements/index.htm