

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

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THE ROLE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

A list of the major entities within the portfolio is below. Entities that are required to report as part of the PB Statements 2005-06 are listed in *italics*.

Department of State

- *Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA)*

Other *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* Agencies

- *Migration Review Tribunal (MRT)*
- *Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT)*

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 bodies

- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Central Land Council
- *Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)*
- Northern Land Council
- Tiwi Land Council
- *Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)*
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

Other Statutory Authorities

- Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA)

Companies limited by guarantee

- National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)

MAJOR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The tasks assigned to the portfolio are:

- arrangements for the settlement of migrants and humanitarian entrants, other than migrant child education;
- border (immigration) control;
- citizenship;
- multicultural affairs;
- entry, stay and departure arrangements for non-citizens;
- ethnic affairs; and
- Indigenous policy coordination and reconciliation.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

DIMIA's mission is *Australia, enriched through the entry and settlement of people; valuing its heritage, citizenship and cultural diversity; and recognising the special place of Indigenous people as its original inhabitants*. The department's business is managing the permanent and temporary entry of people to Australia, enforcing immigration law, successfully settling migrants and refugees, promoting the benefits of citizenship and cultural diversity and working with other portfolio agencies and government departments to advance the social, economic and cultural interests and status of Indigenous people.

The services provided by the portfolio overseas and in Australia include:

- issuing visas for migrants, temporary entrants (eg. skilled workers), business visitors, students and tourists, including identifying those entitled to lawfully enter Australia prior to arrival;
- managing the entry and egress of people crossing the Australian border;
- assessing the character, health and bona fides of applicants applying for entry into Australia;
- meeting Australia's international protection obligations and contributing to the resettlement of refugees and those in humanitarian need through the delivery of the Humanitarian Program;
- locating, detaining and removing unlawful non-citizens;

- identifying and reducing irregular migration, people smuggling, trafficking in persons and other immigration malpractice and fraud;
- increasing the ability of new permanent residents, particularly refugee and Special Humanitarian Program entrants and family stream migrants with lower levels of English proficiency, to participate in Australian life, through settlement programs including English language tuition and translating and interpreting services;
- promoting the value of Australian citizenship and making decisions on citizenship status;
- promoting the benefits of Australia's cultural diversity within a framework of national unity; and
- providing policy advice and undertaking planning, development and coordination of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians across a range of areas.

Indigenous Land Corporation

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is now established by Part 4A of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act 2005). Its purpose is to assist Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders to acquire and to manage Indigenous held land so as to provide economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

The Migration Review Tribunal (MRT) and the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) provide final independent merits review of general visa decisions and protection visa decisions made by DIMIA.

Torres Strait Regional Authority

The functions of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) are now outlined in Section 142A of the ATSI Act 2005. These are primarily to meet national, State and Territory, and regional needs and priorities of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait area by:

- recognising and maintaining the special and unique *Ailan Kastom* (Island Custom) of Torres Strait Islanders living in the Torres Strait area;
- formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of programs for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait area;
- developing policy proposals to assist, advise and cooperate with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals at national, State, Territory and regional levels; and

- providing advice to the Minister regarding Torres Strait Islander regional issues and such other functions as are conferred on the TSRA by law of a State or an internal Territory.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES

Administered expenses of the portfolio are reported under the following Functional Classifications in Budget Paper No. 1, Statement 6:

- *Education* - mainly covers the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) administered by DIMIA;
- *Foreign Economic Aid* - covers initiatives to address the situation of displaced refugees and promote sustainable returns;
- *Other Economic Affairs* - covers DIMIA's expenses for the lawful and orderly entry and stay of people in Australia, Australian citizenship, and the expenses of the MRT and RRT; and
- *Social Security and Welfare* - mainly covers settlement services administered by DIMIA, provision of advice and support to the Minister on Indigenous issues, and administered Indigenous expenses.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2005-06

The portfolio has five entities that contribute to its core responsibilities of immigration, multicultural affairs, Indigenous affairs and reconciliation. The following is a summary of each agency's aims for 2005-06.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

The three outcomes of DIMIA clearly reflect what the agency is working to achieve, that is:

- *contributing to Australia's society and its economic advancement through the lawful and orderly entry and stay of people;*
- *a society which values Australian citizenship, appreciates cultural diversity and enables migrants to participate equitably; and*
- *innovative whole-of-government policy on Indigenous affairs.*

Within this context, DIMIA's strategic priorities by outcome in 2005-06 are described below:

Outcome 1

- deliver the annual Migration and Humanitarian Programs within the overall parameters set by government;
- continue to implement strategies to maximise the economic, budgetary and social benefits from both permanent and temporary immigration, particularly for regional Australia;
- continue to assist the tourism and education industries to expand, including into new markets, with a high degree of immigration integrity;
- pursue DIMIA's better business solutions agenda that places a high priority on issues such as maintaining the integrity of the Migration and Humanitarian Programs and improving the delivery of visa services, ensuring accessibility for clients, cost effective services and transparent processes;
- continue to implement strategies to promote managed migration, and to combat and deter irregular migration and people smuggling activities (including working with international organisations and authorities in countries of origin, first asylum, transit and destination);
- provide effective scrutiny at the border including examining passengers and their movement information before their arrival in Australia;
- locate those who are breaching visa conditions or overstaying and regularise their stay, including through removal from Australia;
- investigate *Migration Act 1958* breaches in conjunction with law enforcement agencies;
- continue to manage and process applications for protection visas onshore, including applications from Temporary Protection Visa holders;
- effectively manage detention issues, including pursuing major infrastructure and policy issues, managing outsourced contracts and ensuring appropriate arrangements for women and minors;
- facilitate the effective management of asylum seekers and operations of offshore processing centres in third country locations and on Christmas Island; and
- continue working with the Department of Finance and Administration on development of a new Immigration Reception and Processing Centre (IRPC) on Christmas Island.

Outcome 2

- continue to work with the community to improve the framework for delivery of programs and services that equip eligible settlers to participate equitably in Australian society, in line with the government's response to the Settlement Services Review;
- proactively support an improved understanding of immigration and multicultural issues in the community;
- promote the value of Australian citizenship;
- continue to develop and implement strategies to maintain the integrity of citizenship application processing;
- promote improved performance by Commonwealth Agencies in the implementation of the *Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society*;
- encourage community harmony;
- promote and communicate the economic benefits of cultural diversity and continue to support business to realise the benefits of diversity in terms of profitability and competitiveness; and
- support increased settlement of humanitarian entrants and other migrants in regional Australia.

Outcome 3

- address priorities for Indigenous Australians as set by the Ministerial Taskforce through policy development and service delivery; and by engaging directly with Indigenous Australians at the regional and local level, including:
 - through Regional Partnership Agreements and Shared Responsibility Agreements; and
 - by brokering effective relations with State and Territory governments on Indigenous issues;
- continue to implement policies that support reconciliation;
- recognise and support the cultural significance of repatriation through the development of opportunities to have remains returned;
- build and maintain effective relationships with Indigenous communities and structures;
- support Indigenous organisations and communities by assisting to develop leadership and strong governance arrangements;

- support Indigenous communities and organisations to maximise the use of the resources available, eg. land;
- continue to lead across the Australian Public Service and jurisdictions in the implementation of the new arrangements in Indigenous affairs and strive to test new ways of working by identifying gaps and lessons learned; and
- work with Indigenous communities and State and Territory governments to maximise the impact of coordinated service delivery strategies.

Indigenous Land Corporation

In December 2002 the ILC launched its new National Indigenous Land Strategy (NILS) to achieve outcomes under the four categories of benefit – economic, environmental, social and cultural – for land management and from land purchased on behalf of Indigenous Australians.

The strategy, which emphasises long-term sustainability and tangible benefits, sets out the land acquisition and land management policies of the ILC.

The ILC will continue to:

- refine the strategy during the budget period;
- require applicants to develop property management plans and business plans for land acquisition and land management assistance; and
- work with the applicants to develop a total package of support which includes capacity development, so that they can develop appropriate organisational structures to effectively manage their land, develop and maintain viable enterprises and conduct a range of other activities that deliver economic, cultural, social and environmental benefits.

The ILC will continue its “Property Remediation Program” during the 2005-06 financial year addressing the physical infrastructure issues, planning and capacity issues on properties purchased by the ILC.

As a result of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* significant assets are being transferred from the former ATSIC to the ILC. These assets include fifteen properties and the balance of the Regional Land Fund. As a priority the ILC will be conducting a full review of the fifteen properties which will involve identifying physical infrastructure and security issues, assessing the planning and capacity of interested parties and considering options for future use/divestment.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

The MRT will continue to provide final independent merits review of decisions concerning non-humanitarian entry and stay. The RRT will continue to provide final independent merits review of decisions concerning applications for protection visas. Merits review by the tribunals contribute towards ensuring that administrative decisions are correct and preferable. The tribunals are required to operate in a way that is fair, just, economical, informal and quick.

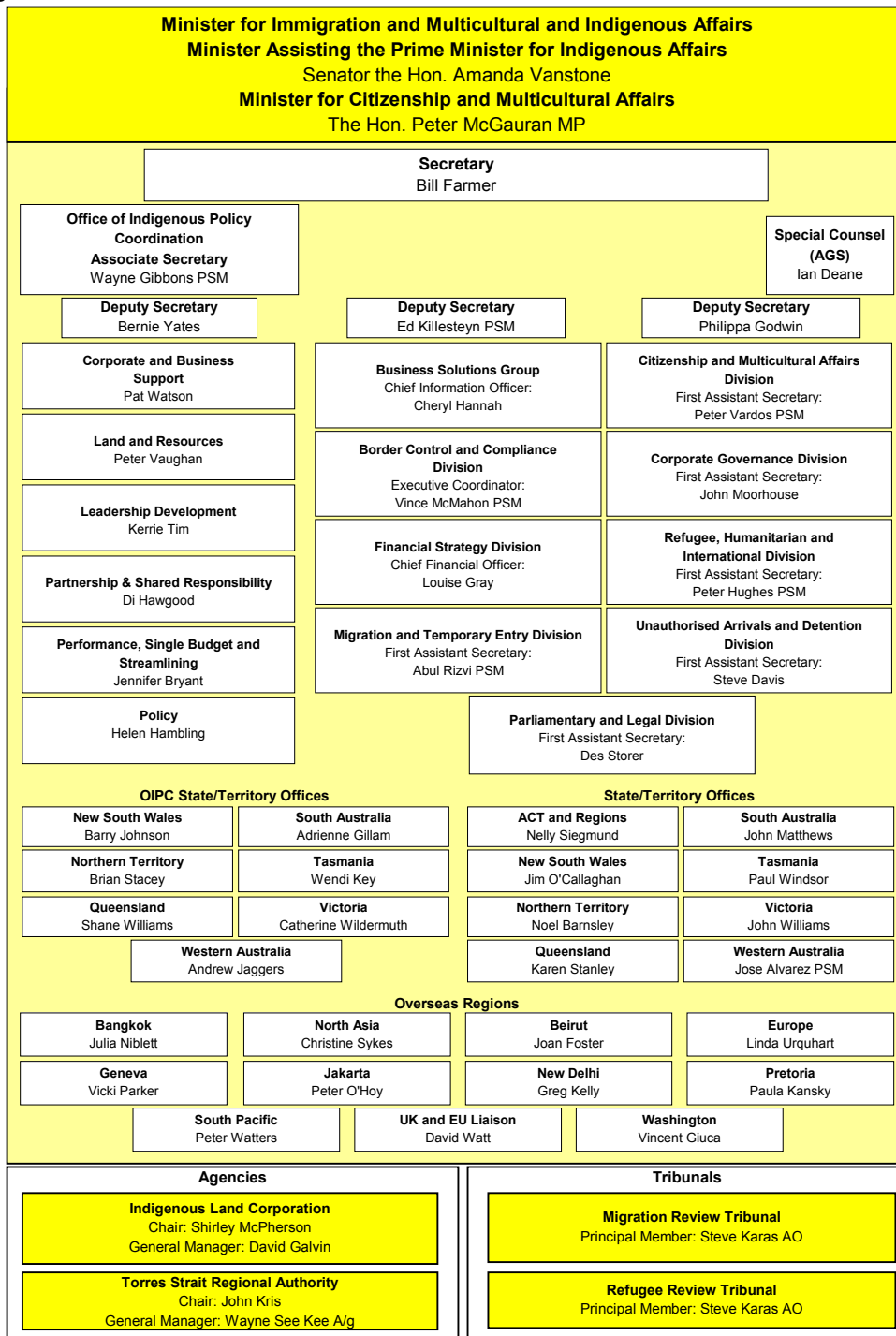
The MRT and the RRT will continue to identify and pursue administrative efficiency measures through the co-location of the tribunals, common staff service provision and other measures.

Torres Strait Regional Authority

The major objective of the TSRA for 2005-06 is to accomplish the outcome: *to achieve a better quality of life and to develop an economic base for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal persons living in the Torres Strait*. In order to do this, the following are planned:

- to provide and maintain business and housing loans, and provide grants to communities to establish viable business enterprises;
- to ensure coordination of Commonwealth/state training programs, and ensure that TSRA programs are working effectively;
- continue to progress remaining native title land claims towards consent determination;
- to preserve cultural heritage and integrity, improve access to human and legal services, provide and improve community infrastructure and provide opportunities to engage in international issues impacting on Indigenous people worldwide;
- to increase the number of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people in the region with access to adequate housing, infrastructure facilities and essential municipal services; and
- to improve the health standards of the Indigenous population by providing appropriate and sustainable infrastructure and ensuring adequate environmental health programs are implemented.

Figure 1: Portfolio structure



APPROPRIATIONS AND VARIATIONS AT THE PORTFOLIO LEVEL

The 2005-06 budget estimates reflect the impact of the Administrative Arrangements Order of 24 June 2004 which implemented the intention to transfer specific Indigenous service delivery functions to mainstream government agencies. The estimates also reflect the transfers of the Home Ownership Program to Indigenous Business Australia, and the Regional Land Fund to the Indigenous Land Corporation, which occurred as a result of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

In addition, as indicated in the 2004-05 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements for the portfolio, the outcome structure for the department has been reviewed to reflect the remaining functions. Further information on the new structure can be found in Section 3: Agency Outcomes.

Figure 2: Departmental appropriations for agencies in the portfolio

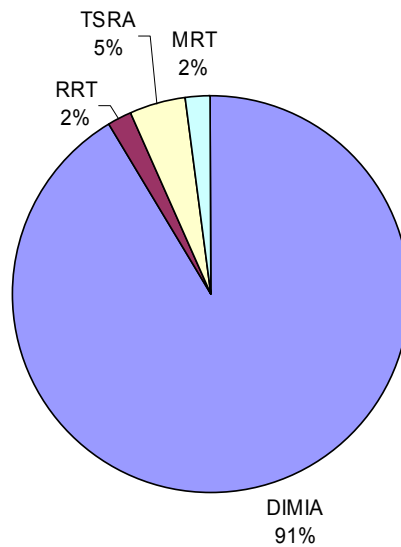


Figure 3: Administered appropriations for agencies in the portfolio

This figure is not required as 100% of administered appropriations within the portfolio relates to DIMIA.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INDIGENOUS EXPENDITURE (AGIE) IMIA PORTFOLIO

Portfolio Table 1: Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure

	Appropriations				Other	Total
	Bill	Bill	Special	Total		
	No. 1	No. 2	Approp	Approp		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)=(D)+(E)	
Outcome 3						
Dept of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs						
Administered 2005-06	99,890	-	140,389	240,279	278,747	519,026
<i>Administered 2004-05</i>	<i>366,874</i>	<i>886</i>	<i>123,304</i>	<i>491,064</i>	<i>479,457</i>	<i>970,521</i>
Departmental 2005-06	82,713	-	-	82,713	14,708	97,421
<i>Departmental 2004-05</i>	<i>113,903</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>133,903</i>	<i>28,507</i>	<i>162,410</i>
Total Outcome 2005-06	182,603	-	140,389	322,992	293,455	616,447
Total Outcome 2004-05	480,777	20,886	123,304	624,967	507,964	1,132,931
Outcome 1						
Indigenous Land Corporation						
Departmental 2005-06	-	-	-	-	92,643	92,643
<i>Departmental 2004-05</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>87,886</i>	<i>87,886</i>
Total Outcome 2005-06	-	-	-	-	92,643	92,643
Total Outcome 2004-05	-	-	-	-	87,886	87,886
Outcome 1						
Torres Strait Regional Authority						
Departmental 2005-06	53,664	-	-	53,664	1,885	55,549
<i>Departmental 2004-05</i>	<i>52,042</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>52,065</i>	<i>2,408</i>	<i>54,473</i>
Total Outcome 2005-06	53,664	-	-	53,664	1,885	55,549
Total Outcome 2004-05	52,042	23	-	52,065	2,408	54,473
Total AGIE 2005-06	236,267	-	140,389	376,656	387,983	764,639
Total AGIE 2004-05	532,819	20,909	123,304	677,032	598,258	1,275,290

