

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

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Since Budget 2005-06, Administrative Arrangement Order (AAO) dated 27 January 2006 effected the transfer of Indigenous Affairs from this portfolio to the renamed Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio. This transferred the department's former Outcome 3 - Innovative whole-of-government policy on Indigenous affairs - to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The AAO also effected the transfer of the following *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* bodies from this portfolio into the Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio:

- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Central Land Council
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- Northern Land Council
- Tiwi Land Council
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council.

There are no changes to Outcomes 1 and 2 of the department. Please refer to the 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements for full text on these Outcomes. The full financial impact of the transfer of Indigenous Affairs will be reflected in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2005-06

There have been no changes to the major objectives and planned achievements since Budget 2005-06. The text printed below adds to the text printed in the 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements for DIMA.

Some of the activities of DIMA were the subject of intense debate since Budget 2005, particularly with the public release in July 2005 of the report by Mr Mick Palmer AO APM of his Inquiry into the Circumstances of the Immigration Detention of Cornelia Rau. That report also covered aspects of the department's handling of the case of Vivian Alvarez Solon, on which a full report was made by Mr Neil Comrie AO APM under the auspices of the Ombudsman in October 2005. Mr Palmer and Mr Comrie identified a number of areas where the department had made mistakes and where substantial improvement is necessary. Making those improvements has been, and continues to be, a major objective for the department.

The Government will provide more than \$230 million over five years for a broad range of initiatives to improve training, provide better health services and infrastructure to immigration detainees, much better records management, decision quality assurance, and a much stronger focus on clients.

DIMA's new strategic value statement **people our business** underpins the framework that will enable the department to move forward to implement both the specific recommendations of the Palmer and Comrie reports and to address the broader issues Mr Palmer raises in relation to the culture and performance of the department.

The body of work identified to respond to the Palmer and Comrie reports is based around three key themes aimed at making DIMA 1) a more open and accountable organisation, 2) ensuring fair and reasonable dealings with clients and 3) providing the organisation with well trained and supported staff. Progress and implementation is being monitored by the newly created Palmer Programme Office and reported to the Cabinet Implementation Unit on a quarterly basis.

Many initiatives are underway:

1) To make DIMA a more open and accountable organisation

DIMA has reviewed its organisational structure to make it more open and accountable, and to establish a clear focus on client service, governance, quality assurance and effective communication. Specifically:

- appointments to key executive positions have been made, including to a number of new positions established under the revised structure;
- the compliance and detention areas of the Department have been restructured to ensure a more robust and integrated approach to managing compliance and detention cases, with a strong focus on case management;
- a Governance and Assurance Branch has been established to help build governance and quality assurance capability in DIMA both at the policy and operational levels;
- a new governance framework has been established including a Values and Standards Committee with representation by the Commonwealth Ombudsman's Office, the Australian Public Service Commission and one other external member, and an enhanced Audit and Evaluation Committee with an external chair;
- Detention Review Managers have been established in the department's State and Territory network who continually review the lawfulness, adequacy and appropriateness of detention arrangements, particularly for individual cases whose identity or status are not quickly confirmed.

2) To ensure that DIMA has more fair and reasonable dealings with clients

DIMA has in place a number of initiatives to address concerns regarding a lack of client focus including:

- establishment of a new Client Services Division to drive a client service cultural change and to enhance client service delivery and response to client feedback;

- commencement of a new contact centre in London on 30 November 2005 and expansion of the Ottawa call centre scheduled for completion in June 2006;
- substantial improvements to health service delivery and infrastructure for immigration detainees; and
- development of a Case Management Framework to ensure that individual clients' cases are managed more effectively and consistently across the Department. The framework also includes development of a pilot community care model for clients who are being actively case managed and have exceptional circumstances that are not already covered by existing programmes. The model is being developed in partnership with the community sector and may include a range of services tailored to the clients' individual needs.

3) Well trained and supported staff

DIMA has initiated a number of projects to increase the level of training and support provided to staff to ensure they are able to undertake their work. Projects include:

- the appointment of a National Training Manager and development of a National Training Strategy;
- development of a College of Immigration Border Security and Compliance to be fully operational in June 2006;
- development and delivery of an Executive Leadership Programme (ELP) in association with the Australian Public Service Commission. Ten courses were delivered in 2005;
- a development programme for APS6 level staff in designated management positions which has been developed and a pilot course delivered in October 2005;
- enhancement of specialist technical immigration training for delivery to Detention and Compliance staff;
- an IT Platform and Governance review and IT Business Needs Analysis;
- a Record Management Improvement Project (RMIP) initiated in October 2005 in consultation with the National Archives of Australia; and
- an Employee Opinion Survey was conducted in December 2005 to identify significant organisational and staff issues and to assist in assessing the extent to which DIMA's values are being translated into action with respect to staff management and services.

Concerns about arrangements for long-term detainees, especially families with children, have been addressed through a range of measures announced by the Prime Minister on 17 June 2005. Further changes to legislation and the way DIMA handles people in detention have been made to ensure that the current policy is administered with greater flexibility, fairness and in a more timely manner:

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- Applications for protection visas must now be finalised within three months; in addition the department met as far as possible the Government's commitment to finalising the then existing caseload of permanent protection visa applications from temporary protection visa holders by 31 October 2005.
 - Consistent with amendments to the *Migration Act 1958*, a minor child shall only be detained as a measure of last resort, the Minister has a personal and non-compellable public interest power to make alternative detention arrangements for a person (or family) and to impose conditions to apply to the person and the alternative detention arrangement.
 - These new arrangements ensured that, by 29 July 2005, all children and their families had been removed from immigration detention centres.
 - Additional non-compellable and non-delegable public interest powers for the Minister to grant a visa to a person in detention, including, but not limited to the Return Pending Bridging Visa (RPBV).
 - The department is required to report every six months to the Commonwealth Ombudsman on the status and case management of any person in immigration detention for two years or longer. The Commonwealth Ombudsman will provide the department with an assessment and potentially a recommendation, including, but not limited to, continued detention, release into the community or the granting of permanent residence for each person referred under this reporting requirement. The Minister is required to table in parliament a copy of the assessment and any recommendations from the Ombudsman.

Further key priorities for 2005-06 include:

- continuing to deliver services to DIMA's clients and to deliver outcomes across the department's core business while the changes to the department are implemented;
- actively driving the agenda for change following the Palmer and Comrie recommendations;
- working with industry and state and territory governments to enhance the delivery of the Skilled Migration Program and improve our competitive edge;
- redeveloping one of the key counter terrorism tools, the Movement Alert List (MAL) to ensure its continued successful operation;
- continuing to make a positive contribution in administering world-class migration, humanitarian, settlement, multicultural, and border programmes.

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES AND VARIATIONS — PORTFOLIO LEVEL

Additional estimates are sought for the following agencies:

- Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA).
- Migration Review Tribunal (MRT).
- Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT).

The portfolio is seeking additional funding of \$49.2 million, which is offset by savings and reduced funding of \$12.3 million.

Additional funding comprises:

- \$43.5 million of new measure funding for departmental outputs and administered expenses, which includes \$2.1 million of new measure funding for the RRT (refer to page 8 and page 18);
- \$5.0 million for departmental equity injections, which includes \$0.3 million for the RRT (refer to page 8); and
- \$0.7 million for other variations (refer to page 19).

Savings comprise (refer to page 25):

- \$10.8 million in savings from annual appropriations; and
- \$1.5 million in movements of funding between years.

The revised funding requirements by agency outcome and their impact on revised appropriations are summarised in the following table and detailed in the Agency Additional Estimates section of this document.

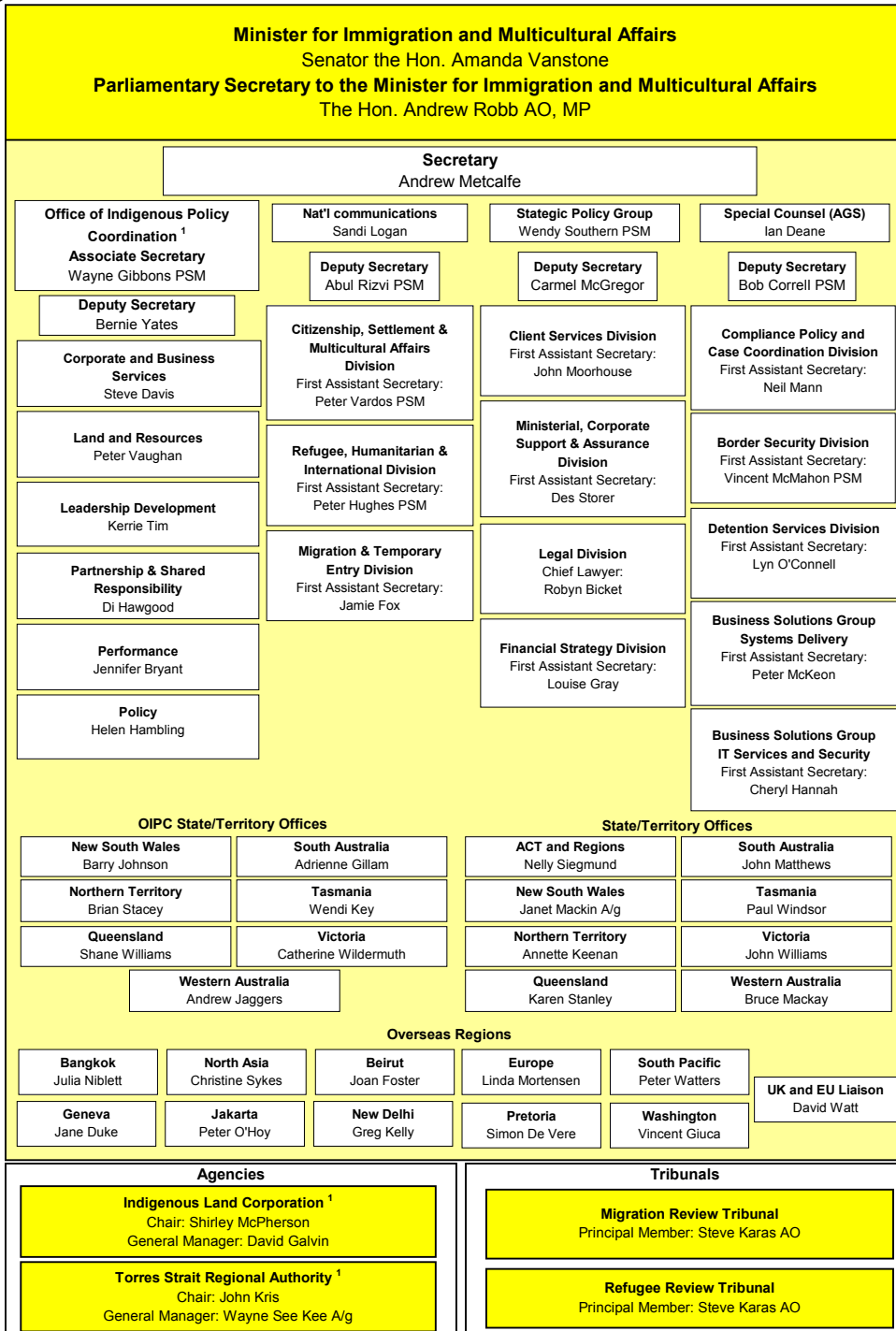
Supplementary Table 1: Total appropriation for agencies in the portfolio

	2005-06 budget \$'000	2005-06 revised \$'000	Increase/ (decrease) \$'000
DIMA			
Administered			
Administered appropriations (Bills 1 & 3)			
Outcome 1	75,242	75,242	-
Outcome 2	178,700	167,175	(11,525)
Outcome 3 ¹	99,890	99,890	-
Total DIMA administered (Bills 1 & 3)	353,832	342,307	(11,525)
Administered (Bills 2 & 4)			
Outcome 2 Specific purpose payments to the states and territories (Bills 2 & 4)	2,196	2,196	-
Total DIMA administered (Bills 2 & 4)	2,196	2,196	-
Departmental			
Departmental appropriations (Bills 1 & 3)			
Outcome 1	795,734	830,556	34,822
Outcome 2	126,743	133,090	6,347
Outcome 3 ¹	82,713	82,713	-
Total DIMA departmental (Bills 1 & 3)	1,005,190	1,046,359	41,169
Departmental equity injections (Bills 2 & 4)	31,312	35,983	4,671
Other Appropriations			
Administered special appropriations			
Outcome 1	5,500	5,500	-
Outcome 3 ¹	61,000	61,000	-
MRT			
Departmental			
Departmental appropriations (Bills 1 & 3)			
Outcome 1	21,532	21,014	(518)
Total MRT departmental (Bills 1 & 3)	21,532	21,014	(518)
RRT			
Departmental			
Departmental appropriations (Bills 1 & 3)			
Outcome 1	20,604	22,742	2,138
Total RRT departmental (Bills 1 & 3)	20,604	22,742	2,138
Departmental equity injections (Bills 2 & 4)	-	300	300
TSRA²			
Departmental			
Departmental appropriations (Bills 1 & 3)			
Outcome 1	53,664	53,664	-
Total TSRA departmental (Bills 1 & 3)	53,664	53,664	-

Notes:

1. With effect of the AAO on 27 January 2006, Indigenous Affairs is moved to the renamed Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio. This transferred the department's Outcome 3 items as at that date. The information above is provided as it outlines the amounts as appropriated for Budget 2005-06. The full financial impact of the transfer of Indigenous Affairs will be reflected in the 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements.
2. The Torres Strait Regional Authority transferred to the Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio with effect of the AAO on 27 January 2006.

Figure 1: Portfolio structure and outcomes¹



Notes:

1 The Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (within the department), the Indigenous Land Corporation, and the Torres Strait Regional Authority transferred to the Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio with effect of the AAO dated 27 January 2006.

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