

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

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THE ROLE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

A list of the major entities within the portfolio is below.

Department of State

- Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA)

Other *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* agencies

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

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) management;
- citizenship;
- multicultural affairs;
- entry, stay and departure arrangements for non-citizens; and
- ethnic affairs.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

DIMA's mission is *Australia, enriched through the entry and settlement of people; valuing its heritage, citizenship and cultural diversity*. The department's business is:

- managing the permanent and temporary entry of people to Australia;
- enforcing immigration law;
- successfully settling migrants and refugees;
- managing the acquisition of Australian citizenship; and
- promoting the benefits of citizenship and the balance between rights, responsibilities, unity and diversity.

As part of the development of the DIMA Plan this mission will be reviewed with any changes to be reflected in the 2006-07 Additional Estimates.

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 departure 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 Programme;
- deterring non-compliance with migration law and 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 Programme entrants and family stream migrants with lower levels of English proficiency, to participate in Australian life, through settlement programmes including English language tuition and translating and interpreting services;
- promoting the value of Australian citizenship;

- deciding applications for Australian citizenship and making decisions on citizenship status; and
- enhancing an understanding of Australia's democratic structures and principles and maximising the benefits of Australia's cultural diversity within a framework of national unity.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

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

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 Programme (AMEP) administered by DIMA;
- *General Public Services* - covers initiatives to address the situation of displaced persons and promote sustainable returns;
- *Other Economic Affairs* - covers DIMA'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 DIMA.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2006-07

The portfolio has three entities that contribute to its core responsibilities of immigration and multicultural affairs. The following is a summary of each agency's aims for 2006-07. As part of the development of the DIMA Plan, outcomes and outputs will be reviewed, with any changes to be reflected in the 2006-07 Additional Estimates.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

The two outcomes of DIMA 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; and*

- *a society which values Australian citizenship, appreciates cultural diversity and enables migrants to participate equitably.*

Within this context DIMA's strategic priorities by outcome in 2006-07 are described below:

Outcome 1

- deliver the annual Migration and Humanitarian Programmes within the overall parameters set by government;
- continue to implement strategies to strengthen the economic, budgetary and social benefits from both permanent and temporary migration, 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;
- continue to pursue DIMA's better business solutions agenda that places a high priority on issues such as maintaining the integrity of the Migration and Humanitarian Programmes 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 strengthen international cooperative efforts against people smuggling, trafficking in persons and terrorism;
- provide effective scrutiny at the border including examining passengers and crew and their movement information before their arrival in Australia;
- promote compliance with migration law;
- locate those who are breaching visa conditions or overstaying and regularise their stay, including, where necessary, 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 services with a focus on detainee needs, including ensuring appropriate alternative arrangements for women, minors and their families and pursuing policy changes and major infrastructure projects and managing outsourced contracts;

- 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

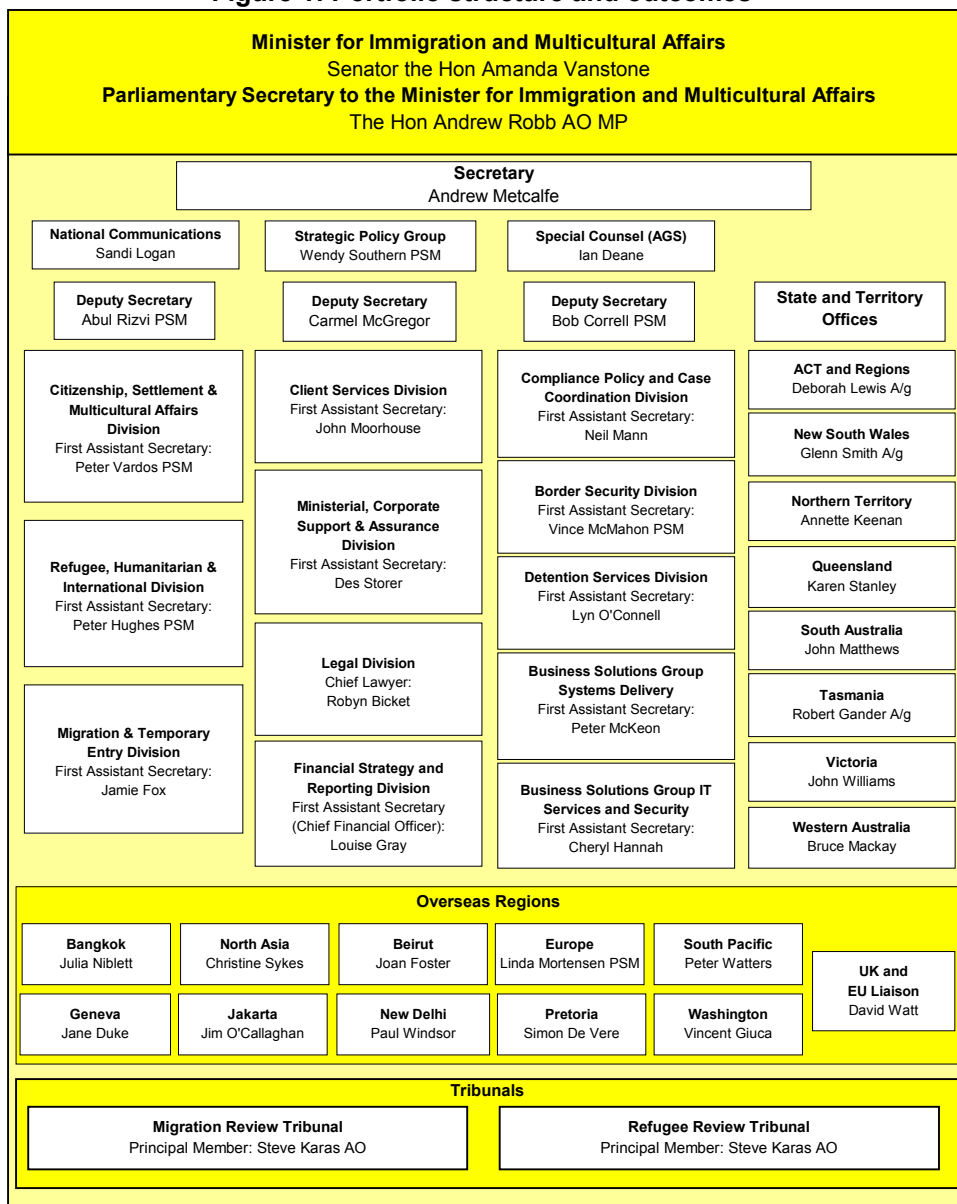
- continue to work with the community to improve the framework for delivery of programmes and services that equip eligible settlers to participate equitably in Australian society, in line with the government's response to the Settlement Services Review of 2002-03;
- pro-actively support an improved understanding of immigration and multicultural issues in the community;
- implement changes to citizenship law passed by the Parliament;
- 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*;
- enhance understanding of the responsibility of all Australians to uphold our democratic values and enhance our social cohesion;
- promote mutual respect and acceptance through the *Living in Harmony* initiative, the community liaison network, engagement and partnerships with community organisations and participation in a wide range of community and other activities;
- coordinate the development and implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to address extremism and intolerance for the Ministerial Council of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (MCIMA) as requested by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG);
- increase understanding of the economic and social benefits of diversity through partnerships with Commonwealth agencies, businesses and community organisations; and
- support increased settlement of humanitarian entrants and other migrants in regional Australia.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

The MRT will continue to provide final independent merits review of decisions concerning migration programme 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.

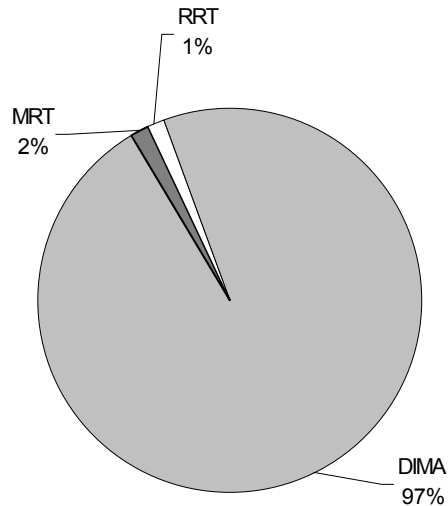
Figure 1: Portfolio structure and outcomes



APPROPRIATIONS AND VARIATIONS AT THE PORTFOLIO LEVEL

The Figure 2 reflects the departmental appropriations for agencies in the portfolio. The administered appropriations graph is not applicable as 100% of administered appropriations within the portfolio relates to DIMA.

Figure 2: Departmental appropriations for agencies in the portfolio



The 2005-06 estimated actuals and the 2006-07 budget estimates (including forward years) reflect the impact of:

- 1) the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) of 27 January 2006; and
- 2) the Finance Minister's Direction to transfer appropriation under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) Section 32, effective 1 March 2006.

The AAO transferred the function of Indigenous Affairs from this Portfolio to the Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Portfolio. The FMA Act Section 32 Direction transferred administered appropriations relating to Indigenous Affairs to the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA).

Departmental figures in Indigenous Affairs represent projected expenditure against former Outcome 3 departmental outputs. Projections have been made based on a proposed departmental appropriations transfer, under Section 32 of the FMA Act, effective 4 May 2006 (after the time of this publication). Pending its finalisation, the departmental estimates are indicative only (refer to Table 3.1.3).

Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure IMA Portfolio

Table 1: Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure — portfolio level

	Appropriations				Other	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$'000 (A)	Bill No. 2 \$'000 (B)	Special Approp \$'000 (C)	Total Approp \$'000 (D)	\$'000 (E)	\$'000 (F)=(D)+(E)
Outcome 3						
Dept of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs						
Administered 2006-07	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Administered 2005-06</i>	50,532	-	30,545	81,077	-	81,077
Departmental 2006-07	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental 2005-06</i>	67,395	-	-	67,395	12,226	79,621
Total Outcome 2006-07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Outcome 2005-06	117,927	-	30,545	148,472	12,226	160,698
Total AGIE 2006-07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total AGIE 2005-06	117,927	-	30,545	148,472	12,226	160,698

