

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Department of State

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Other *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* agencies

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal (MRT-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 control;
- entry, stay and departure arrangements for non-citizens;
- citizenship;
- multicultural affairs; and
- ethnic affairs.

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Department of Immigration and Citizenship

DIAC's purpose is embodied in the statement: *enriching Australia through the well-managed entry and settlement of people*. The department's business is:

- managing the permanent and temporary entry of people to Australia;
- contributing to border security;
- successfully settling migrants and refugees;
- administering Australian citizenship, law and policy; and
- promoting the benefits of a united and diverse society.

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;
- authenticating the identity of people entering Australia and maintaining a foundation identity of non-citizens;
- 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;
- preventing and deterring non-compliance with migration law;
- applying appropriate sanctions to business sponsors who breach sponsorship undertakings;
- locating, detaining and resolving the immigration status of 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
- promoting the benefits of a united and diverse society, including through programmes supporting the integration of migrants and enhancing social cohesion.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

The MRT-RRT provide independent merits review of general visa decisions and protection visa decisions made by DIAC.

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 DIAC;
- *General Public Services* - covers initiatives to address the situation of displaced persons and promote sustainable returns;
- *Other Economic Affairs* - covers DIAC's expenses for the lawful and orderly entry and stay of people in Australia, Australian citizenship and the expenses of the MRT- RRT; and
- *Social Security and Welfare* - mainly covers settlement services administered by DIAC.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2007-08

The portfolio has two *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* entities that contribute to its core responsibilities of immigration and citizenship. The two entities are the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Migration Review Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal and the following is a summary of each agency's aims for 2007-08.

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Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The two outcomes of DIAC reflect what the agency is working to achieve. They are:

- *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 DIAC's strategic priorities by outcome in 2007-08 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 DIAC'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 strengthen international cooperative efforts against people smuggling and 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;
- provide identification, verification and biometric matching capabilities across a range of business processes, through the collection of biodata and images, and integration with alerts systems;
- 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;

- monitor business sponsors for compliance with sponsorship undertakings and, as appropriate, apply sanctions for those in breach and/or refer to other relevant agencies;
- 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 and continue to implement reforms;
- ensure that clients, especially the vulnerable, are managed in a fair, reasonable and timely way to an immigration outcome; and
- facilitate the effective management of asylum seekers and operations of offshore processing centres in other countries.

Outcome 2

- continue to work with the community and other Government agencies to improve the framework for delivery of programmes and services that equip eligible settlers to participate equitably in Australian society;
- pro-actively support an improved understanding of immigration and cultural diversity issues in the community;
- implement changes to citizenship law passed by the Parliament;
- develop and implement a formal citizenship test;
- promote the value of Australian citizenship;
- continue to develop and implement strategies to maintain the integrity of citizenship application processing;
- promote improved responses to Australia's cultural diversity through the implementation of the *Accessible Government Services for All* strategy;
- 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 build on social cohesion, harmony and security for the Ministerial

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Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (MCIMA) as requested by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG); 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 the refusal or cancellation of migration and temporary entry visas. The RRT will continue to provide final independent merits review of decisions concerning the refusal or cancellation of protection visas.

APPROPRIATIONS AND VARIATIONS AT THE PORTFOLIO LEVEL

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 DIAC.

Figure 2: Departmental appropriations for agencies in the portfolio

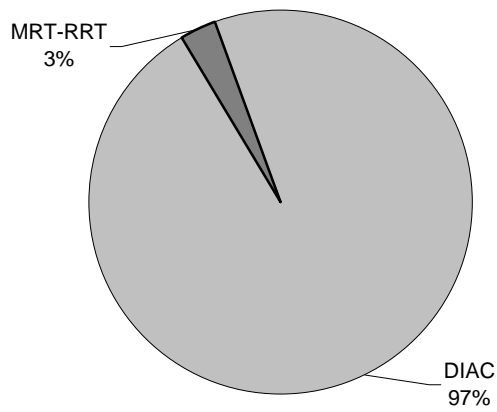
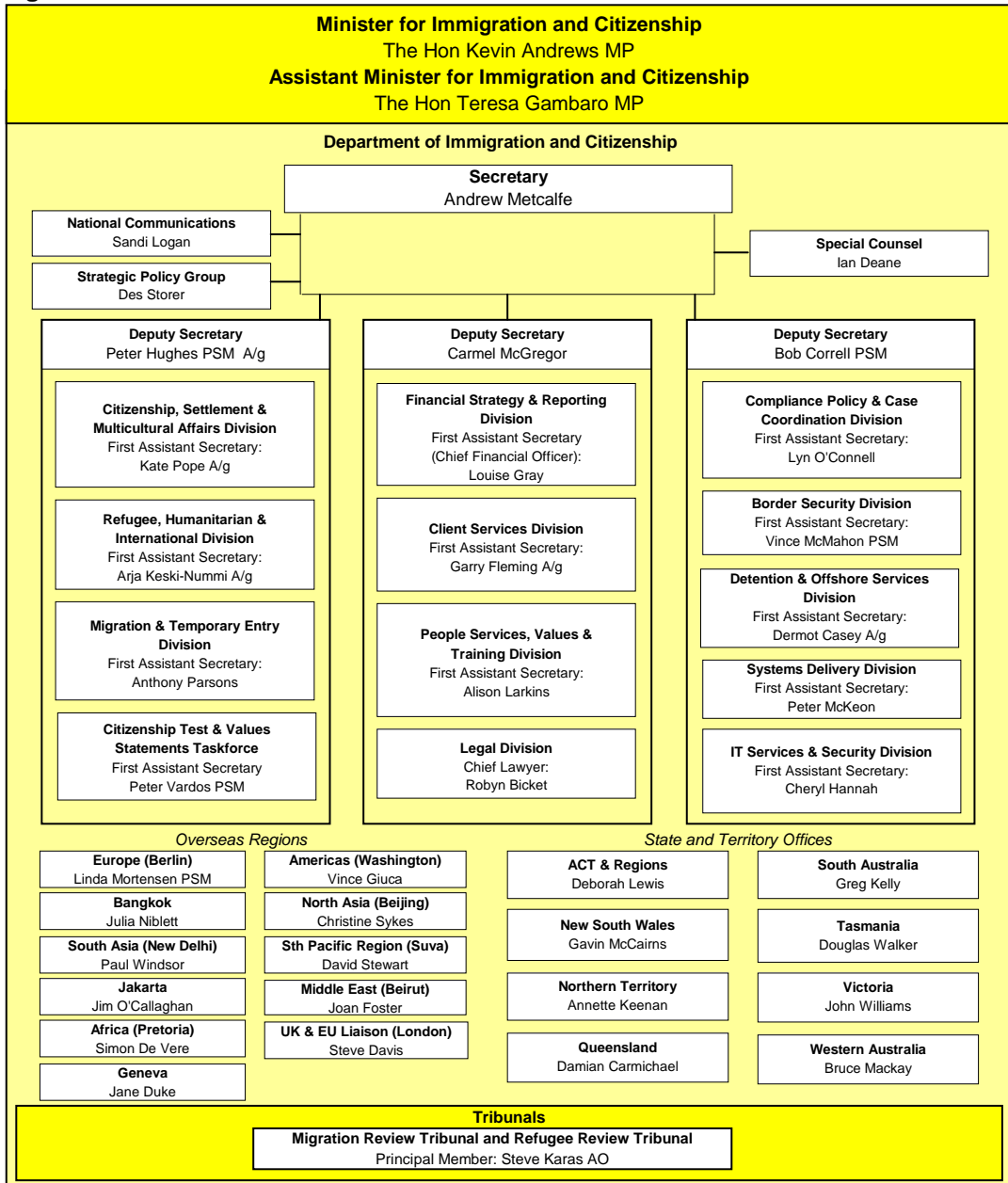


Figure 1: Portfolio structure



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INDIGENOUS EXPENDITURE – IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

The Immigration and Citizenship Portfolio does not administer any Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure.

