

**MIGRATION REVIEW TRIBUNAL
AND
REFUGEE REVIEW TRIBUNAL**

MIGRATION REVIEW TRIBUNAL AND REFUGEE REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Section 1: Overview

The Migration Review Tribunal (MRT) provides final independent merits review of decisions of DIAC to refuse or cancel migration and temporary entry visas. The Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) provides final independent merits review of decisions of DIAC to refuse or cancel protection visas. The MRT and the RRT are established under the *Migration Act 1958*.

The *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations* were amended with effect from 1 July 2006 to establish a single prescribed agency (the 'Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal' or 'MRT-RRT') for the purposes of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act). Up to 30 June 2006, the MRT and the RRT were separately prescribed for the purposes of the FMA Act. The Finance Minister issued directions under section 32 of the FMA Act transferring appropriations from the MRT and the RRT to the MRT-RRT.

1.1 SUMMARY OF AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUTCOMES

The services which contribute to achievement of outcomes for MRT-RRT are summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Contribution to Outcomes

Outcome	Description
Outcome 1	
To provide visa applicants and sponsors with fair, just, economical, informal and quick reviews of migration and refugee decisions	The MRT-RRT reviews administrative decisions in relation to migration and refugee visas. The Tribunals are established under the <i>Migration Act 1958</i>

Section 2: Resources for 2007-08

2.1 APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

The MRT-RRT has an agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) to have funding reviewed on the basis of a formula using fixed and variable costs. The MRT-RRT will receive 75 per cent of its appropriation as a fixed amount and the remaining 25 per cent is dependent on the number of cases finalised in a year.

Table 2.1 shows the total resources from all origins for 2007-08, including appropriations. The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome, administered and departmental classification.

The total appropriation for the MRT-RRT in the 2007-08 Budget is \$40.3m.

Table 2.1: Appropriations and other resources 2007-08 ('000)

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal Agency Resourcing—2007-2008											
Agency/Outcome/ Non-operating	Departmental				Administered						Total \$'000
	Appropriation Bill No. 1 \$'000	Appropriation Bill No. 2 \$'000	Special Appropriation \$'000	Receipts (a) \$'000	Appropriation Bill No. 1 \$'000	Appropriation Bill No. 2 SPP \$'000	Other (b) \$'000	Special Appropriation \$'000	Receipts (a) \$'000		
Outcome 1 To provide visa applicants and sponsors with fair, just, economical, informal and quick reviews of migration and refugee decisions	40,313	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,313
TOTAL	40,313	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,313

Notes:

(a) Departmental and administered receipts from other sources (i.e. other than appropriation amounts) that are available to be used.

(b) Includes new administered expenses and administered assets and liabilities.

Notes:

1. Refer to Budgeted Income Statement for application of agency revenue.

2.2 2007-08 BUDGET MEASURES

The MRT-RRT has no measures. For this reason, Table 2.2 is omitted.

2.3 OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO BE USED

The MRT-RRT has no other resources. For this reason, Table 2.3 is omitted.

2.4 MOVEMENT OF ADMINISTERED FUNDS

The MRT-RRT has no administered funds. For this reason, Table 2.4 is omitted.

2.5 SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

The MRT-RRT has no special appropriations. For this reason, Table 2.5 is omitted.

2.6 MOVEMENTS IN SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

The MRT-RRT has no special accounts. For this reason, Table 2.6 is omitted.

Section 3: Outcomes

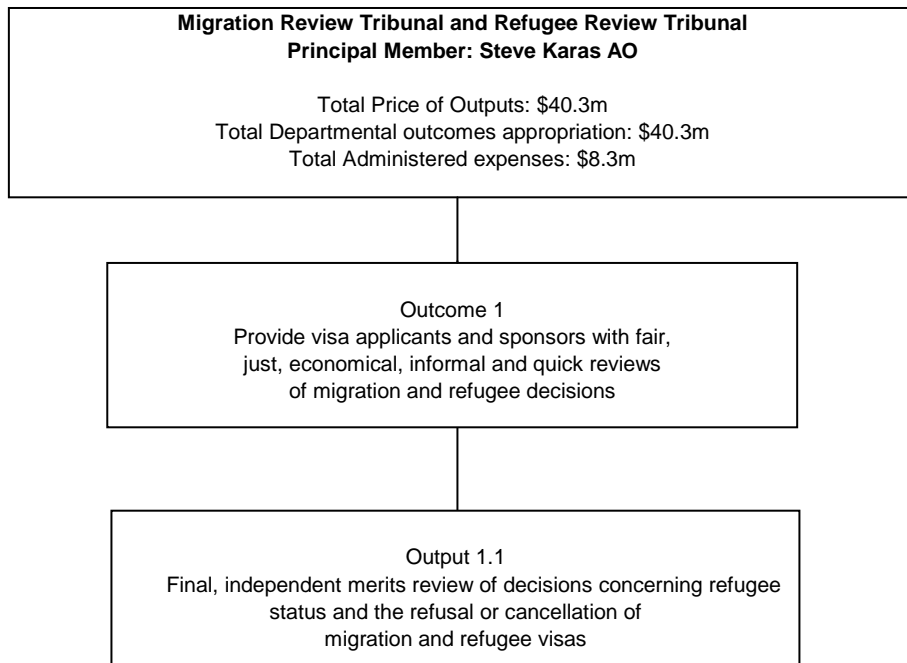
General Government Sector (GGS) agencies are required to plan, budget and report under an outcomes structure. GGS agencies produce outputs (departmental items) and also administered items on behalf of the Government (administered items).

This section summarises how the resources identified in Section 2 will be used to contribute to the outcome for the MRT-RRT. Emphasis is placed on estimating the contribution to the outcome through administered items and output delivered by the MRT-RRT. Key performance measures and performance evaluation activities are specified for MRT-RRT outcome. More detailed information on output and administered item attributes is maintained by the MRT-RRT for internal management purposes.

3.1 SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND CONTRIBUTION TO OUTCOMES

The relationship between activities of the MRT-RRT and the outcome is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Contributions to outcomes



3.2 OUTCOME RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

3.2.1 Outcome 1 resourcing

Table 3.1: Total resources for Outcome 1 (\$'000)

	Estimated actual 2006-07 \$'000	Budget estimate 2007-08 \$'000
Administered items		
Write-down of assets	2,200	2,200
Refund of application fees	6,100	6,100
Total administered expenses	8,300	8,300
Departmental appropriations		
Output Group 1.1 - Final, independent merits review of decisions concerning refugee status and the refusal or cancellation of migration and refugee visas	39,659	40,313
Subtotal Output Group 1.1	39,659	40,313
Total price from departmental outputs (Total revenue from government and from other sources)	39,659	40,313
Total estimated resourcing for Outcome 1 (Total price of outputs and administered appropriations)	47,959	48,613
	2006-07	2007-08
Average staffing level (number)	340	340

3.2.2 Measures affecting Outcome 1

There are no measures affecting Outcome 1.

3.2.3 Performance information for Outcome 1

Performance information for administered items, individual outputs and output groups are summarised in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Performance information for Outcome 1

Effectiveness - overall achievement of the outcome	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the MRT and the RRT contribute to the quality and consistency of administrative decision making • Professional and effective working relationships with stakeholders 	
Performance information for departmental outputs	
Output 1.1	Performance indicator
Final, independent merits review of decisions concerning refugee status and the refusal or cancellation of migration and refugee visas	\$40.3 million
Quality:	
Level and outcome of appeals against Tribunal decisions	
Number of complaints received	
Extent to which time standards are met	
Quantity:	
Number of migration reviews conducted	8,100
Number of refugee reviews conducted	3,050

Evaluations for Outcome 1

The MRT-RRT seeks feedback from stakeholders through regular community liaison meetings and liaison meetings with DIAC. Monthly activity and financial reports are reviewed by the Senior Management Group. There is an internal audit programme and there are management initiated reviews to enhance the flexibility, accountability and cost effectiveness of output delivery. The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) is conducting a general performance audit, which is nearing completion, on the effectiveness of the MRT and the RRT.

Competitive tendering and contracting (CTC)

The MRT-RRT manages a number of contracts with external service providers. Service providers are selected and engaged in accordance with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

Section 4: Other reporting requirements

4.1 PURCHASER-PROVIDER ARRANGEMENTS

The MRT-RRT currently purchases its financial system from DIAC, and has an agreement with DIAC for the processing and collection of post-decision fees. The MRT-RRT also has arrangements with DIAC to use DIAC's travel provider.

The MRT-RRT has a service delivery agreement with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for the provision of counter services and serviced offices in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane.

4.2 COST RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Summary of cost recovery impact statement

The MRT-RRT has no cost recovery arrangements. Fees and charges for courts and tribunals are excluded from the government's cost recovery policy (which generally encompasses fees and charges related to the provision of government goods and services to the private and other non-government sectors of the economy).