

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

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MINISTER AND PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

The Portfolio Minister is Senator Chris Evans, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

The portfolio agencies are:

- the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)—a department of state; and
- the Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal (MRT-RRT)— a prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act).

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Department's purpose is: *building Australia's future through the well-managed entry and settlement of people.*

The Department's business is to:

- contribute to Australia's future through managed migration;
- protect refugees and contribute to humanitarian policy internationally;
- contribute to Australia's security through border management and traveller facilitation;
- make fair and reasonable decisions for people entering or leaving Australia, ensuring compliance with Australia's immigration laws and integrity in decision making;
- support migrants and refugees to settle in the community and participate in Australian society; and
- promote Australian citizenship and a multicultural Australia.

As a result of the 2007-08 Review of Statutory Self-Regulation of the Migration Advice Profession, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship announced that the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) would be established to regulate migration agents. The Office of the MARA will be a discrete office attached to the Department, and will undertake the regulatory functions from 1 July 2009. The new Office will be supported by an Advisory Board comprising a diverse range of stakeholders.

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

- policy analysis and research to develop a strong evidence base for advice in relation to the role of temporary and permanent migration and humanitarian entry, in responding to changes in Australia's social, economic and international environment;
- granting visas for migrants, temporary entrants (e.g. skilled workers), business visitors, students and tourists, including identifying prior to arrival those entitled to lawfully enter Australia;
- managing the entry and departure of people crossing the Australian border;
- authenticating the identity of people entering Australia and maintaining that foundation identity for use in the Australian community;
- assessing the character, health and bona fides of people applying for entry to 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;
- deterring, identifying and responding to breaches of immigration law;
- applying appropriate sanctions to business sponsors who breach sponsorship undertakings and obligations;
- locating unlawful non-citizens and resolving their immigration status;
- identifying and reducing irregular migration, people smuggling and trafficking in persons;
- 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 a settlement program 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 programs supporting the integration of migrants and enhancing social cohesion.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

The Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal provide independent merits review of general visa decisions and protection visa decisions made by the Department.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2009-10

The Portfolio has two FMA Act entities—the Department and the MRT–RRT—that contribute to its core responsibilities of the lawful and orderly entry and stay of people and enabling migrants and refugees to participate equitably through citizenship and social cohesion. This section summarises each entity’s aims for 2009-10.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The Department is responsible for six outcomes.

They are:

Outcome 1: Managed migration through visas granted for permanent settlement, work, study, tourism, working holidays or other specialised activities in Australia, regulation, research and migration policy advice and program design.

Outcome 2: Protection, resettlement and temporary safe haven for refugees and people in humanitarian need through partnering with international agencies; assessing humanitarian visa applications; and refugee and humanitarian policy advice and program design.

Outcome 3: Lawful entry of people to Australia through border management services involving bona fide traveller facilitation; identity management; document verification; intelligence analysis; partnerships with international and domestic agencies; and border policy advice and program design.

Outcome 4: Lawful stay of visa holders and access to citizenship rights for eligible people through promotion of visa compliance responsibilities, status resolution, citizenship acquisition integrity, case management, removal and detention, and policy advice and program design.

Outcome 5: Equitable economic and social participation of migrants and refugees, supported through settlement services, including English language training; refugee settlement; case coordination; translation services; and settlement policy advice and program design.

Outcome 6: A cohesive, multicultural Australian society through promotion of cultural diversity and a unifying citizenship, decisions on citizenship status, and multicultural and citizenship policy advice and program design.

The Department will achieve these outcomes in 2009-10 by:

Outcome 1

- delivering the annual Migration Program within the overall parameters set by government
- continuing to implement strategies to strengthen the economic, budgetary and social benefits of both permanent and temporary migration, particularly for regional Australia

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- continuing to assist the tourism and education industries to expand, including into new markets
- continuing to pursue the Department's better business solutions agenda, which places a high priority on issues such as maintaining the integrity of the Migration Program and improving the delivery of visa services, ensuring accessibility for clients, cost-effective services and transparent processes

Outcome 2

- delivering the annual Humanitarian program within the overall parameters set by government
- continuing to implement strategies to promote managed migration and strengthen international cooperative efforts against people smuggling, trafficking in persons and terrorism
- continuing to manage and process applications for protection visas onshore

Outcome 3

- providing effective border management services including examining passengers and crew and their movement information before their arrival in Australia and examining and confirming their identity and authority to enter Australia
- providing identity management, document verification and biometric matching capabilities across a range of business processes

Outcome 4

- continuing to implement strategies to promote compliance, and prevent and deter non-compliance, with immigration law
- monitoring business sponsors for compliance with sponsorship undertakings and obligations and, as appropriate, apply sanctions for those in breach and/or refer their cases to other relevant agencies
- investigating *Migration Act 1958* (Migration Act) breaches where appropriate
- locating people who are no longer permitted to stay in Australia and achieve resolution of their immigration status through the grant of a visa or their departure
- effectively managing immigration detention services and continuing to implement reforms

- ensuring that all clients are managed in a fair, reasonable and timely way to an immigration outcome
- facilitating the effective management of asylum seekers

Outcome 5

- providing initial settlement services to refugees and other humanitarian entrants to support their transition to becoming fully participating members of the Australian community
- continuing to work with the community, not-for-profit organisations and government agencies to improve the framework for delivery of programs and services that better equip eligible settlers to participate equitably in Australian society
- supporting settlement of humanitarian entrants and other migrants in regional Australia

Outcome 6

- promoting the value of Australian citizenship
- delivering lawful citizenship decisions under Australian citizenship legislation
- continuing to develop and implement strategies to maintain the integrity of citizenship application processing
- implementing government policy changes regarding Australian citizenship
- redeveloping and ongoing administration of the citizenship test
- promoting improved responses to Australia's cultural diversity through the implementation of the *Access and Equity* strategy
- coordinating the development, implementation and review of the National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security through community engagement for the Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, as requested by the Council of Australian Governments
- addressing issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance by promoting mutual respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging through the Diverse Australia Program's funding and information activities.

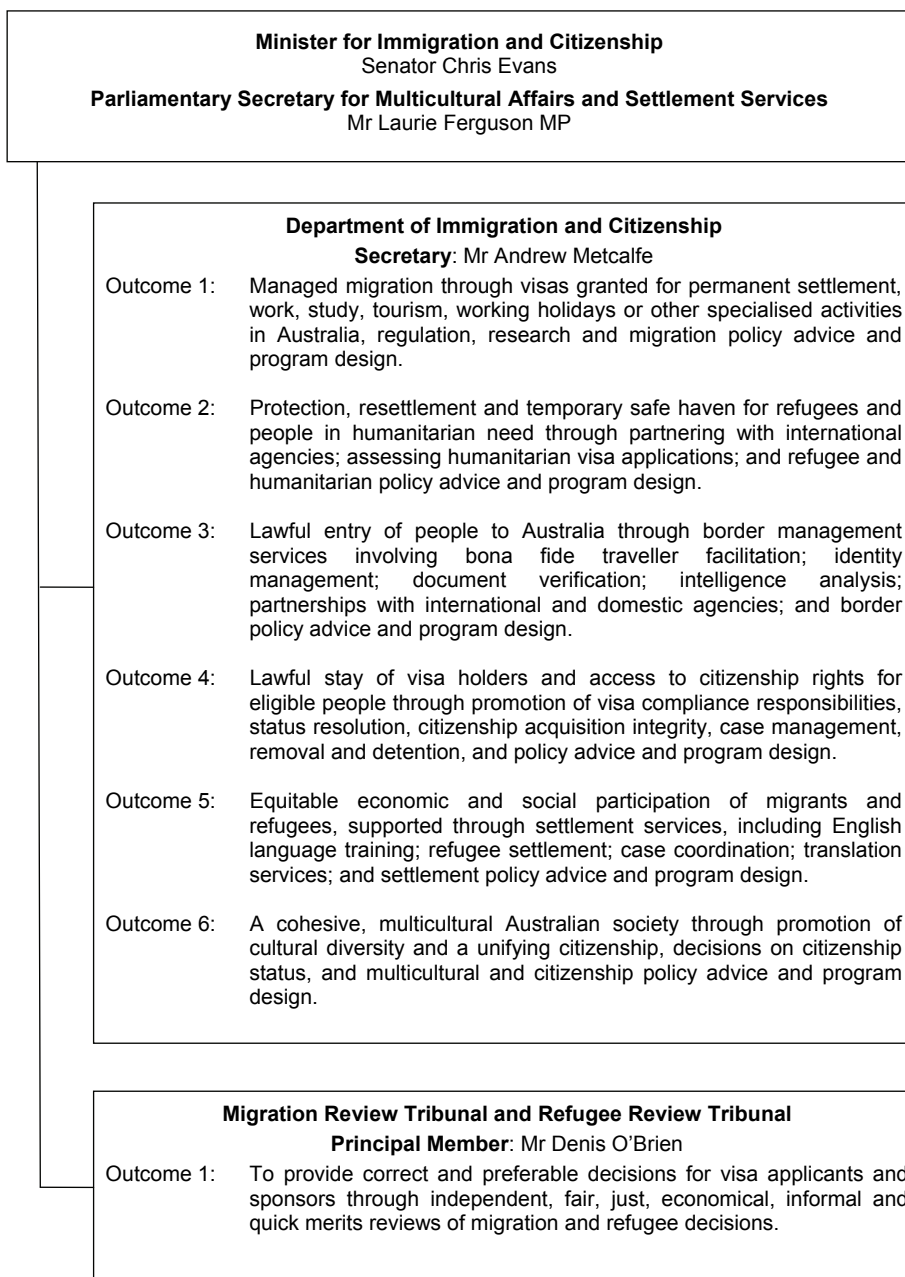
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Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

The Migration Review Tribunal will continue to provide final independent merits review of decisions concerning the refusal or cancellation of migration and temporary entry visas.

The Refugee Review Tribunal will continue to provide final independent merits review of decisions concerning the refusal or cancellation of protection visas.

Figure 1: Immigration and Citizenship portfolio structure and outcomes



DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

PORTFOLIO RESOURCES

Table 1 shows the total resources provided to the portfolio in the 2009-10 budget year, by agency.

Table 1: Portfolio resources 2009-10

	Appropriation			Receipts	Total
	Bill No. 1 \$m	Bill No. 2 \$m	Special \$m	\$m	\$m
Department of Immigration and Citizenship					
Administered Appropriations	511.6	-	-	-	511.6
Departmental Appropriations	1,197.5	31.8	-	48.3	1,277.6
Total:					1,789.2
MRT-RRT					
Administered Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental Appropriations	41.0	-	-	-	41.0
Total:					41.0
	Resources available within Portfolio:				1,830.2