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# Explanatory Notes

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## References to government departments

Throughout this report, the current names of government departments have been used, even if the references relate to predecessors of those departments.

In particular, the Department of Immigration was created in 1945 and over the years had a number of name changes to include Local Government, Ethnic Affairs and Multicultural Affairs. There was also a Department of Aboriginal Affairs from 1972 until 1990 (when the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission was established) and a Department of Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs during 2001. In November 2001 the Commonwealth Government announced the combination of the two departments as the Department for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

Throughout this report, in order to avoid confusion, the department has been referred to as DIMIA.

## Quotes from submissions to the review

Every effort has been made to ensure references from submissions to the review are quoted in their original form. Differences in terminology and language between submission quotes and official departmental terms have not been altered and neither have any inconsistencies been corrected. Where necessary, however, standard editing conventions, including ellipses and square brackets, have been used to make partial quotes into full sentences.

## Australia's current immigration intake

To fully appreciate the importance of Australia's settlement service delivery arrangements and, therefore, the recommendations in this report, some knowledge of Australia's permanent entry programs is necessary.

Australia has a nondiscriminatory immigration policy, which means that anyone from any country can apply to migrate to Australia, regardless of their ethnic origin, gender, race or religion.

Permanent residence is granted under either the Migration Program or the Humanitarian Program. The Migration Program has two major streams:

- **Skilled** - the skilled stream of Australia's Migration Program is specifically designed to target migrants who have skills or outstanding abilities that will contribute to the Australian economy;
- **Family** - migrants are selected on the basis of their relationship to a sponsor in Australia - essentially spouses, fiancé(e)s, dependent children, and parents who meet the 'balance of family' test (a test designed to give an indication of how strong the parents' family links are with Australia compared with other countries).

In 2002-03, the Migration Program will comprise 100,000 - 110,000 places. At the mid point of the range, the Migration Program will provide:

- 60,700 places for skilled stream migrants and their immediate families; and
- 43,200 places for family stream migrants.

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Some 1,600 places will be reserved for special eligibility migrants. This term covers people in several categories, including former Australian citizens who have unavoidably lost their Australian citizenship and have maintained ties with Australia, and people who have applied under the Resolution of Status category and have lived in Australia for ten years.

The Humanitarian Program has three main components:

- **Refugee** - for people who meet the 1951 United Nations Convention definition of a refugee and have been identified in conjunction with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees as in need of resettlement;
- **Special Humanitarian Program** - for those who have suffered discrimination amounting to gross violation of human rights, displacement or hardship, and who have strong support from an Australian citizen or permanent resident in Australia; and
- **Onshore Protection Visa Grants** - for refugees granted protection visas in Australia.

In 2002-03, the Humanitarian Program intake will comprise 12,000 places, of which 4,000 will be reserved for refugees resettled from offshore. One thousand places will be reserved for those found to be refugees onshore. An estimated 7,000 places (comprising any unused places onshore and the balance of the 12,000 new places in the program) will be allocated to Special Humanitarian Program entrants. The main focus of the Humanitarian Program in 2002-

03 will be people from the countries of the Middle East, South-West Asia and Africa.

Throughout this report, people entering under the Humanitarian Program have been referred to as humanitarian entrants, unless a reference has made a specific distinction between the different categories of humanitarian entrants.