

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(109) Program: Internal Product**

Senator Humphries asked:

Please provide details of all advisory councils including:

- (a) Membership.
- (b) Duration of term.
- (c) Terms of Reference and mission statement.
- (d) Reporting dates.
- (e) Meetings per year.
- (f) Any reports provided to Government to date.

*Answer:*

As at 9 February 2010:

#### (1) Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council (RRAC)

##### (a) Membership:

The Hon Bruce Baird AM (Chair)  
Mr Paris Aristotle AM  
Ms Samia Baho  
Ms Carmel Guerra  
Mr Mohamad Issa  
Mr Kevin Liston  
Ms Margaret Piper  
Mr Paul Power  
Ms Jenny Semple  
Mr Daniel Zingifuaboro

##### (b) Duration of term:

19 March 2008 to 30 June 2010.

##### (c) Terms of Reference and mission statement:

The RRAC advises the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services on matters relating to the settlement of migrants and humanitarian entrants.

In its fifth term, the key areas of focus for the Council are:

- monitoring the implementation of initiatives arising from the 2007-08 budget decisions by Government in relation to humanitarian entrants;
- improving the responsiveness of services across Government to the needs of migrants and humanitarian entrants;
- facilitating coordination and pathways between services across Government agencies and jurisdictions;
- addressing the challenges faced by new arrivals to promote their social and economic participation; and
- innovation, policy development and evaluation of specialised settlement services for humanitarian entrants.

#### Statement of Priorities 2008-2010

RRAC will provide advice on the development, provision and adequacy of initial settlement services relating to, inter alia;

- housing;
- complex case support;
- improving collaboration between service delivery organisations in the settlement sector;
- child protection including the welfare of unaccompanied humanitarian minors (UHMs);
- employment support, including skills recognition and connections with employers;
- pathways from English language to education and skills development;
- size and composition of the humanitarian program;
- health including mental health issues;
- support for youth who are at risk of disengaging from education and employment;
- language support, including interpreting services;
- settlement/resettlement nexus;
- diversifying settlement locations, both nationally and within urban centres;
- promoting the valuable contribution of migrants and humanitarian entrants;
- priorities for research on settlement issues;
- mobilising community and volunteer support for new arrivals; and
- information provision to new arrivals.

(d) Reporting dates:

Nil.

(e) Meetings per year:

RRAC convenes up to three times a year. The Council also undertakes a number of out of session activities to further progress its Statement of Priorities. The Council has formed five working groups to focus this activity: the Housing Working Group, the Youth Working Group, the Employment Pathways Working Group, the Rural and Regional Working Group, and the Family Working Group.

(f) Any reports provided to Government to date:

RRAC provided the *Challenges Facing Refugee Families: Briefing Paper Reflecting Issues of Concern to RRAC* to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon Chris Evans, and Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP, in August 2009. This paper was also provided to the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in September 2009, and will be circulated to mainstream agencies in 2010.

(2) Australian Multicultural Advisory Council (AMAC)

(a) Membership:

Mr Andrew Demetriou (Chair)  
Mr Susai Benjamin  
Dr Hass Dellal OAM  
Ms Joumanah El Matrah  
Ms Carmen Garcia  
Dr Sylwia Greda-Bogusz  
Ms Rhonda Jacobsen  
Ms Gail Ker  
Ms Voula Messimeri AM  
Ms Nola Randall-Mohk  
Mr Brian Schwartz AM  
Judge Rauf Soulio  
Dr Casta Tungaraza  
Inspector Craig Waterhouse  
Professor Samina Yasmeen  
Mrs Katie Young OAM

(b) Duration of term:

1 January 2009 – 30 June 2010

(c) Terms of Reference and mission statement:

The Australian Multicultural Advisory Council provides the Government with advice on:

- (i) social cohesion issues relating to Australia's cultural and religious diversity
- (ii) overcoming intolerance and racism in Australia
- (iii) communicating the social and economic benefits of Australia's cultural diversity to the broad community
- (iv) issues relating to the social and civic participation of migrants in Australian society.

(d) Reporting dates:

Nil.

(e) Meetings per year:

In 2009 there were five AMAC meetings and one workshop. (The last meeting was held on 4 February 2010 and the next one is scheduled for 21 April 2010).

(f) Any reports provided to Government to date:

Nil.

(3) Council for Immigration Services and Status Resolution (CISSR)

(a) Membership.

Mr Paris Aristotle AM (Chair)  
Air Marshal Ray Funnell AC (retired) (Deputy Chair)  
Ms Kerrin Benson  
Mr Noel Clement  
Ms Caz Coleman  
Ms Libby Lloyd AM  
Dr Maryanne Loughry  
Associate Professor Harry Minas  
Professor Nicholas Procter  
Dr Jamal Rifi  
Professor Samina Yasmeen

(b) Duration of term:

The above council members have been appointed for a two year term commencing from October 2009.

(c) Terms of Reference and mission statement:

The CISSR was established as an independent advisory group to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to:

- provide independent advice to the Minister on policies, processes, services and programs necessary to achieve the timely, fair and effective resolution of immigration status for people seeking migration outcomes in Australia. This includes people whose immigration status is unresolved residing either in the community or in any form of detention. In particular, the Council will provide advice on:
  - policies, services and programs designed to support the timely resolution of immigration status outcomes;
  - the appropriateness and adequacy of services available to assist people whose immigration status is unresolved; and

- o detention matters including, but not limited to, the suitability of facilities, accommodation and service arrangements.

(d) Reporting dates:

Nil.

(e) Meetings per year:

CISSR convenes up to five times per year.

(f) Any reports provided to Government to date:

Nil.

(4) Detention Health Advisory Group (DeHAG)

(a) Membership.

Dr Choong-Siew Yong  
Ms Sandra Eagar  
Dr Paul Kotala  
Professor Maxine Whittaker  
Dr Tim Lightfoot  
Dr Gillian Singleton  
Ms Amanda Gordon  
Professor Louise Newman  
Mr Jorge Aroche  
Professor Anna Whelan

(b) Duration of term:

The above members have been appointed for a one year term commencing 16 September 2009.

(c) Terms of Reference and mission statement:

The DeHAG will play a major role in providing the Department with the necessary independent, expert advice to design, develop, implement and monitor health care services for people in detention centres and related facilities.

The Department is reviewing the nature of detention services provision including health care services as a response to the Palmer and Comrie Reports. The delivery of primary health care and mental health services to people in detention will be a focus.

Specifically, the DeHAG will provide expert opinion regarding:

- the design, development and implementation of health policy for the health care, including mental health care, of people in immigration detention.

- appropriate health care service standards which should be achieved in detention health services.
- appropriate monitoring and reporting of detention health services and related information and data issues.
- the nature and scope of potential research required to facilitate improved health outcomes and management of health care in detention services.

The Detention Health Advisory Group will convene for an initial period of two years with an opportunity for members to review their position on an annual basis.

(d) Reporting dates:

Nil.

(e) Meetings per year:

DeHAG meets on a quarterly basis.

(f) Any reports provided to Government to date:

Nil.

(5) Advisory Board to the Office of the MARA

(a) Membership:

Mr Robert Cornall (Chair)  
 Ms Jenni Mack (Deputy Chair)  
 Mr Glenn Ferguson  
 Mr Robert Stirling Henry  
 Mr Andrew Holloway  
 Mr Jim McKiernan  
 Ms Sonia Caton  
 Ms Elizabeth Hoffman  
 Ms Christine Sykes

(b) Duration of term:

The Office of the MARA Advisory Board members were appointed on 13 August 2009 for a term of 2 years with an option for extension at the discretion of the Minister.

(c) Terms of Reference and mission statement:

The Office of the MARA Advisory Board provides advice to the Office of the MARA Chief Executive in relation to:

- Office of the MARA procedures, policies and strategies;

- Setting of organisational directions, priorities and plans; and
- Any emerging issues within the Sector of relevance to the regulation of migration agents.

The Office of the MARA Advisory Board can also provide advice on broad policy issues relating to the migration advice profession as appropriate, including, for example, consumer protection issues.

The Office of the MARA Advisory Board operates in an advisory capacity to the Office of the MARA and has no legal status or decision making capacity in relation to the functions of the Office of the MARA.

(d) Reporting dates:

Annually at the end of each financial year.

(e) Meetings per year:

The Office of the MARA Advisory Board meets quarterly and may hold special meetings as required.

(f) Any reports provided to Government to date:

In December 2009, the Chair of the Office of the MARA Advisory Board provided the first report to the Minister, outlining the Board's activities over the previous six months, including the outcomes of the Board meetings in September and November 2009.