



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Deputy Secretary

Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra 2600



Dear Senator Payne

At the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee hearing on 26 May 2004, I gave evidence relating to the status of a group of 43 Vietnamese people on Christmas Island. (The *Hansard* reference is Legal & Constitutional page 70). I advised that the group had all had a primary decision and an RRT decision. I would like to provide the following clarification:

Of the group of 43 remaining on Christmas Island (as at 26 May 2004), 42 have had a primary decision. The remaining applicant is a child who was born in Australia, who, as was mentioned at the hearing, has lodged a Protection Visa application which awaits a primary decision.

All 42 have had a review decision, but in two cases this was a review by the AAT rather than the RRT. These two cases have been remitted to the Department by the AAT and await a new primary decision.

I regret any confusion which may have resulted from my evidence and trust that the above will clarify the situation.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Godwin

8 June 2004