



# Refugee Council of Australia

18 September 2013

## SETTLEMENT SERVICES MOVED OUT OF IMMIGRATION PORTFOLIO

Under new administrative arrangements announced by the Federal Government today, responsibility for refugee and migrant settlement services and for the Adult Migrant English Program have been moved out of the Immigration portfolio. The main changes are:

- **Settlement services** – including Humanitarian Settlement Services and the Settlement Grants Program – will be moved to the new **Social Services** portfolio.
- “**Multicultural affairs**” will also move to the **Social Services** portfolio but “ethnic affairs” will remain with Immigration (at this stage the difference is between these two responsibilities is unclear).
- **Adult migrant education**, particularly the Adult Migration English Program, will move to the **Employment** portfolio.
- What was the Department of Immigration and Citizenship is renamed the **Department of Immigration and Border Protection** and takes on responsibility for **Customs**.

### Functions of the Immigration portfolio

The **Department of Immigration and Border Protection** is responsible for:

- Entry, stay and departure arrangements for non-citizens
- Border immigration control
- Citizenship
- Ethnic affairs
- Customs and border control (except quarantine and inspection)

It will administer the following legislation:

- *Aliens Act Repeal Act 1984*
- *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*
- *Australian Citizenship (Transitional and Consequential) Act 2007*
- *Customs Act 1901*
- *Customs Administration Act 1985*
- *Customs Depot Licensing Charges Act 1997*
- *Customs Securities (Penalties) Act 1981*
- *Customs Tariff Act 1995*
- *Customs Undertakings (Penalties) Act 1981*
- *Customs (Tariff Concession System Validations) Act 1999*
- *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946*
- *Migration Act 1958*
- *Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act 1997*
- *Migration (Health Services) Charge Act 1991*
- *Migration (Sponsorship Fees) Act 2007*
- *Migration (Visa Application) Charge Act 1997*
- *Migration (Visa Evidence) Charge Act 2012*

The responsible ministers for these functions are **Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison** and **Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Senator Michaelia Cash**.

Suite 4A6, 410 Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia  
Phone: (02) 9211 9333 • Fax: (02) 9211 9288  
info@refugeecouncil.org.au • Web: www.refugeecouncil.org.au  
Incorporated in ACT • ABN 87 956 673 083

The Refugee Council of Australia represents  
non-government organisations and  
individuals working with and for refugees  
in Australia and around the world

## **Functions transferred from the Immigration portfolio**

Arrangements for the settlement of migrants and humanitarian entrants (other than migrant children and the provision of migrant adult education), as well as multicultural affairs, will now be administered by the **Department of Social Services**. The new **Minister for Social Services** is **Kevin Andrews**. He will be assisted by: Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator Mitch Fifield; and Minister for Human Services, Senator Marise Payne; **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells**, will have responsibility for multicultural affairs and settlement services.

The **Department of Employment** assumes responsibility for adult migration education and for administering the *Immigration (Education) Act 1971* and *Immigration (Education) Charge Act 1992*. The new **Minister for Employment** is **Senator Eric Abetz** and **Assistant Minister for Employment** is **Luke Hartsuyker**.

## **Further details**

The new Abbott Ministry can be found at:

[http://www.dpmc.gov.au/parliamentary/docs/ministry\\_list\\_20130918.rtf](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/parliamentary/docs/ministry_list_20130918.rtf)

The new Administrative Arrangements Order (which details responsibilities for each Department) can be found at: [http://www.dpmc.gov.au/parliamentary/docs/aao\\_20130918.rtf](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/parliamentary/docs/aao_20130918.rtf)