

Immigration - A Commitment to Australia: Terms of Reference

Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies *Immigration: A Commitment to Australia* Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service, 1988, pp vii and ix-x.

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies

In recognition of the importance of immigration the Federal Government made an election commitment to a broad ranging look at its immigration policies, including the points system. An essential part of this will be full consultations with the Australian community, including ethnic organisations.

Immigration will continue to profoundly shape Australia's economic, social and demographic development. Immigration's importance is brought into even sharper focus at a time when significant economic readjustment is under way. The immigration program, particularly through its family reunion and refugee components, meets social and humanitarian considerations which take account of the multicultural nature of Australian society and the nation's international responsibilities.

Last year in excess of one million people showed an interest in living in Australia. The Committee will look towards the end of the century and ask why Australia should accept immigrants, how many and who they should be.

Terms of Reference

The Committee will report to the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs in March 1988 on Australian immigration policies. The Committee should address all pertinent matters including in broad terms, the following:

- the relationship between immigration and the economy, including the effects on the labour market and economic development;
- the relationship between immigration and Australia's social and cultural development as a multicultural society;
- the relationship between immigration and key population issues;
- the overall capacity of Australia to receive significant immigration intakes; and
- the relationship between immigration policies including compliance, and the administrative and legislative processes involved.

In carrying out its work, the Committee should:

- have regard to the principles that Australia's immigration policies are non-discriminatory in respect of national or ethnic origin, race, sex and religion and that it is a sovereign right of the Australian Government to determine who should enter;
- have regard to Australia's continuing commitment to play its part in providing international humanitarian assistance to those in need;
- note that the Government has ruled out an amnesty for illegal immigrants;
- bear in mind settlement experiences insofar as they are relevant to the framing of immigration policies, noting that the Government is separately developing a National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia; and
- undertake full consultation with interested

parties through written and oral submissions and other appropriate means.

The Committee shall report on:

- the guiding principles which should shape Australia's immigration policies, looking ahead to the end of this century;
- the balance of objectives which should be reflected in policies in terms of composition and level of immigration; and
- administrative and legislative mechanisms necessary for the implementation of immigration policies.

Membership of the Committee

Dr Stephen FitzGerald A.O.

Academic and businessman, Chairman of the Asian Studies Council, Member of the Advisory Council on Languages and Multicultural Education, former Ambassador to China and former Deputy Chairman of the Australia-China Council, consultant on relations and trade with China.

Mr Tony Bonnici A.M.

Melbourne barrister and Chairman of the Victorian Ethnic Communities' Council.

Professor Helen Hughes A.O.

Professor of Economics and Executive Director of the National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University.

Mr Jim Hullick

Secretary-General of the South Australian Local Government Association.

Mr Alan Matheson

Ethnic Liaison Officer with the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Dr Alessandra Pucci

Managing Director of Australian Monoclonal Development Pty Ltd, QANTAS Businesswoman of the Year 1985.