

# Restructure of immigration research activities

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The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP.  
Minister for Immigration and  
Multicultural Affairs

## Media Release

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The functions of the Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research (BIMPR) will be restructured to meet Budget savings targets the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Philip Ruddock announced today.

"The Budget deficit has put pressure on Government activities across the board and the research programme of the BIMPR will have to be more tightly focussed on quality," Mr Ruddock said.

"The BIMPR has been well resourced since its formation in 1989 and the restructure will achieve savings of \$3 million. Research activities will continue into key aspects of portfolio issues."

"The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA) will remain a cornerstone of the work undertaken by my Department."

The LSIA started in March 1994 and has already provided valuable data for the Commonwealth and other agencies to monitor and evaluate immigration and settlement policies, programmes and services.

It is collecting data from about 5,000 recently arrived migrant households on topics including health, education, employment, citizenship and housing. The survey is expected to be completed in 1998.

"The Department will continue to provide statistics and research that are of great value to Government and the private sector," Mr Ruddock said.

The Bureau's research, statistical and library functions will be combined in the Canberra office and discussions will be held with staff based in Melbourne, to consider redeployment.

"Announcing the restructure of the BIMPR now, will ensure staff are not subjected to the continuing speculation over their future", Mr Ruddock said.