

Letter to friends and supporters of BIMPR

Message from Dr Bill Cope, Director, BIMPR

8 August 1996

Dear friends and supporters

It is with a great deal of sadness that we announce the restructuring of research activities in the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs which will involve the closure of the Bureau of Immigration and Multicultural and Population Research. The bureau will close on 19 August 1996.

The enclosed issue of the Bureau's *Bulletin* will be the last. Having been sent to press before this decision was made, it reflects the standards of excellence of the Bureau's work, its profound relevance to the Australian community and our hopes for the future.

For seven years, the Bureau serviced the Australian community well. It has been the focal point for informed discussion on the difficult but crucial issues of immigration, multiculturalism and population. The Bureau has also provided the information basis for the difficult decisions governments have to make in the areas of the immigration program, multicultural and settlement policy and population planning.

The Bureau was the inheritor of a tradition of excellent work done before it, in the Office of Multicultural Affairs from 1986 to 1989 and in the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs from before 1986.

The statistics section of the Bureau will be maintained in Canberra. It will continue its essential work in documenting the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

arrivals and departures data and other statistical information. And the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia, in which there has already there has been a considerable investment, will be completed, also from the Central Office of the Department in Canberra.

I wish to thank the staff of the Bureau, particularly those in Melbourne and those in Canberra who are leaving the Department, for a job extremely well done. The loss of this accumulated knowledge and expertise will be sorely felt by this country. I also wish to thank the members of the Bureau's Advisory Board and State and Territory Reference Groups for their diligence and commitment well beyond the call of duty.

The Bureau leaves behind a comprehensive collection of research in the fields of immigration, settlement, multicultural affairs and population unmatched elsewhere in the world. We are both proud of this achievement and grateful to the many who have contributed to the development of such a fine body of work.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bill Cope

Director