Report of the Review of Post Arrival Programs and Services for Migrants

Frank Galbally, Chairman

Preamble

In the light of the Government’s concern to ensure that the changing needs of migrants are being met as effectively as possible within the limits of available resources, it has been decided to establish a Review of existing post arrival programs and services. The Review is to be conducted with regard to the Government’s Federalism policy and its objective of encouraging self-help and supporting the enterprise and dedication of community groups and individuals in the provision of such programs and services.

Terms of Reference

1. The Review shall examine and report on the effectiveness of the Commonwealth’s programs and services for those who have migrated to Australia, including programs and services provided by non-government organisations which receive Commonwealth assistance, and shall identify any areas of need or duplication of programs or services. In doing so, the Review shall -

(a) examine welfare and other programs and services (including in the fields of health, housing, education and employment insofar as these bear on the social welfare of migrants); (b) take account of the extent to which programs and services are being provided by other levels of government and other non-government organisations.

2. In particular the Review shall consider:

(a) the roles and functions of government and non-government organisations respectively, and the appropriate relationship between them which would ensure the most effective planning and provision of programs and services to migrants;
(b) which programs and services available to the general community could be better designed to ensure that migrants (especially non-English speaking migrants) are as well served as others;
(c) which special programs for migrants could be better integrated with, or absorbed into, those for the general community;
(d) the extent to which migrants may be disadvantaged through lack of awareness of programs and services and the difficulties experienced in gaining access to them;
(e) the appropriateness of the role and organisation, and the effectiveness of the operations of the Good Neighbour Councils, having regard to the changing needs and composition of the migrant community;
(f) the roles of other non-government organisations providing significant services to migrants, and their interrelationships including with Good
Neighbour Councils;

(g) the role of the Commonwealth in funding non-government organisations providing services to migrants and the most appropriate arrangements for any such funding.

3. The Review is to take account of current or recent relevant inquiries, including in particular:

• The Task Force on Co-ordination in Welfare and Health;

• The Inquiry into Education and Training;

• The Review of the Commonwealth Employment Service;