



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

31 AUGUST 1977

REVIEW OF POST-ARRIVAL PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES TO MIGRANTS

The Government has decided to establish a review of post-arrival programmes and services provided to migrants by the Commonwealth and non-Government organisations supported by Commonwealth funding.

The Review Group will be headed by Mr. F. Galbally, C.B.E., a prominent Melbourne barrister.

The Review will commence immediately, and its first meeting will be in Canberra tomorrow, September 1.

The Government is conscious of the special language, housing, employment and other difficulties faced by migrants during transition from one society to another.

Migrants themselves want to be involved in developing the types of post arrival services and programmes which can assist in happy settlement, overcome day to day difficulties and help prevent serious welfare and other long term problems.

The Review provides an opportunity for migrants to participate in identifying the problems and difficulties and in designing programmes relevant to the needs of today's migrants.

The aim of the Review is to make sure the changing needs of migrants are being met as effectively as possible.

The Bailey Task Force in its first report recommended that there be a review of the functions and future role of Good Neighbour Councils. The Good Neighbour Councils themselves have called for a review, and there have been requests from ethnic organisations.

In accepting that there should be a review, the Government has decided that it should be set in the broader context of reviewing the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's programmes and services for those who have migrated to Australia and the assistance it gives to non-Government organisations providing programmes and services to migrants.

/The emphasis

The emphasis will be on seeking better and more effective services to migrants within existing financial allocations rather than on greater expenditure.

It will, of course, be essential in the conduct of the Review that all migrants have an opportunity to contribute. Submissions will be invited from the general public and from organisations, and the Review panel will be seeking the views of as many migrants and migrant groups as possible.

Mr. Galbally is eminently suited to the task of heading the Review. He has had a long and continuing interest in the legal and broader problems of migrants, and has three times been decorated by the Italian Government in recognition of his services to migrants of Italian origin.

Other members of the group will be Miss F. Merenda, M.B.E., a migrant welfare worker who is well known in both the Italian and the Australian communities in Sydney; Mr. N. Polites of Melbourne, a migrant social worker who is active in the Greek community and Mr. C. Stransky of Perth, a schoolteacher and former Field Officer of the Good Neighbour Council who was born in Yugoslav territory and who has been active in interpreting and ethnic radio.

The Review will report finally to me in six months.

REVIEW OF POST-ARRIVAL PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES TO MIGRANTS

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 inter-relationships 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;
- . the Report of the Interdepartmental Working Party on Interpreters and Translators.