

**RESPONSE TO OMBUDSMAN'S STATEMENT MADE  
UNDER SECTION 486O OF THE *MIGRATION ACT 1958***

**- STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT -**

General Comments

I refer to the Commonwealth Ombudsman's statements tabled in Parliament today. The two reports tabled today bring the total number presented to the Parliament to 71.

Statement 070/06

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has recommended that I make a decision on my public interest powers under sections 48B and 417 of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act) within the statutory period prescribed in section 486P of the Act for the tabling of this report in the Parliament. Secondly, that I consider exercising my power to grant this person a Bridging Visa with work rights, while arrangements for this person's removal are concluded.

I can advise that my department has assessed the requests for consideration under sections 48B and 417 and found that they did not meet the guidelines and therefore were not referred to me for consideration. A subsequent combined request for intervention under sections 48B and 417 was received on 25 August 2006. This request is being assessed by my department in accordance with normal procedures.

Statement 071/06

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has suggested that the department take steps to ensure that this person be given every opportunity to inform his spouse of the removal action to allow them the opportunity to return to South Korea together.

I can advise that the family were informed that removal was imminent. This person's daughter departed Australia a short time later. The person's spouse remains in Australia as an unlawful non-citizen and appropriate action has commenced to locate that person.



AMANDA VANSTONE

Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

Dated: 12/9/2006