

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

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

General Comments

I refer to the Commonwealth Ombudsman's reports tabled in Parliament today. I note that these reports comprise eleven assessments relating to eleven people.

Of these eleven people, eight people have been granted visas and released from detention, one remains in a community detention arrangement, and two remain in immigration detention at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (VIDC).

Four people remained in immigration detention at the time the Ombudsman wrote his assessments. One has since been granted a visa, one is undergoing Public Interest Criteria checks for the grant of a visa, one is undergoing Public Interest Criteria checks for possible placement in community detention, and one is on a removal pathway.

Responses to Ombudsman's Reports

Statement 481/08

This person was granted a Permanent Protection visa on 11 December 2006.

Statement 482/08

This person was part of my review of long term detainees announced on 12 March 2008.

As part of my review of long term detainees, I decided to consider this person for a Resident Return visa.

This person was granted a Resolution of Status visa, which is a more appropriate visa for their circumstances, and released from detention on 24 October 2008.

The Department's detention health service providers, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), have referred this person to appropriate mental health professionals to ensure their ongoing mental health needs are met.

Statement 483/08

This person was part of my review of long term detainees announced on 12 March 2008.

As part of my review of long term detainees, I decided to consider this person for a Removal Pending Bridging visa subject to Public Interest Criteria checks and to place this person in community detention.

This person was placed in community detention on 29 April 2008.

This person is currently undergoing Public Interest Criteria checks for the grant of the visa.

Statement 484/08

This person was part of my review of long term detainees announced on 12 March 2008.

On 19 May 2008, I decided to maintain this person's current detention placement subject to review should a future assessment indicate that transfer to the Immigration Residential Housing be appropriate.

On 9 November 2008, I decided to consider placing this person in community detention subject to Public Interest Criteria checks.

This person is now undergoing Public Interest Criteria checks for possible placement in community detention.

Statement 485/08

This person was granted a Temporary Protection visa on 11 August 2005, and then granted a Permanent Protection visa on 19 March 2008.

Statement 486/08

This person was granted a Removal Pending Bridging visa on 26 September 2005 and resides lawfully in the community.

Statement 487/08

This person was part of my review of long term detainees announced on 12 March 2008.

On 29 April 2008, I agreed to the Department continuing to make removal arrangements for this person.

Statement 488/08

This person was granted a Global Special Humanitarian visa on 14 October 2008.

Statement 489/08

This person was granted a Permanent Protection visa on 7 December 2007.

Statement 490/08

This person was part of my review of long term detainees announced on 12 March 2008.

As part of my review of long term detainees, I decided to lift the section 48B bar to allow the person to submit another Protection visa application, and to place this person in community detention.

This person was placed in community detention on 20 June 2008, and was granted a Permanent Protection visa on 9 September 2008.

Statement 491/08

This person was part of my review of long term detainees announced on 12 March 2008.

As part of my review of long term detainees, I declined to consider the case while identity issues remained unresolved.

These identity issues were resolved and this person was granted a Permanent Spouse visa on 18 September 2008.



CHRIS EVANS
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

Dated: 24/11/08