

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

I note the 28 Commonwealth Ombudsman's assessments tabled in Parliament on 12 March 2008 cover 19 people. Of these 19, I note that 13 of the individuals referred to remain in immigration detention. I further note that an additional 48 people currently in immigration detention have been detained for longer than two years.

As I have already expressed, I am deeply concerned that so many detention cases have taken so long to resolve.

I have determined that I will work with my department over the coming weeks to individually review each of these 61 long term detention cases. I intend to consult with the Commonwealth Ombudsman prior to making a decision on each of these cases. I anticipate this process will be completed by the end of April 2008.



CHRIS EVANS
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Dated: 11/3/08