

FOREWORD

Australia's criminal deportation scheme was designed to protect the community from criminal non-citizens while ensuring that Australia fulfills its international and humanitarian obligations towards these non-citizens and their families.

When the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs asked the Joint Standing Committee on Migration to undertake the inquiry, he expressed concern at recent review decisions which allowed permanent residents with substantial convictions to stay in Australia.

With approximately 300 people in Australian prisons who come within the criminal deportation provisions, the Committee also was eager to ensure that the laws and administrative arrangements for dealing with the possible deportation of such criminal non-citizens operated fairly, efficiently and effectively. The Committee focused on the question of whether or not the criminal deportation arrangements adequately safeguard the interests of the Australian community.

Since 12 December 1996, the Committee has conducted a comprehensive review of criminal deportation arrangements administered by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. The Committee presents its findings and recommendations using a report structure which follows the inquiry's terms of reference.

CHRIS GALLUS, MP
CHAIR