PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Chair: Hon Anthony Byrne MP
Deputy Chair: Hon Philip Ruddock MP

Intelligence and Security Committee to conduct Public Hearing on Thursday 16 June

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security is required under Section 29 (1)(a) of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*, to conduct an annual review of the administration, expenditure and financial statements of the Australian Intelligence Community.

"As part of our review of the administration and expenditure of ASIO, the Committee has received submissions in relation to visa security assessments," Mr Byrne said. "This public hearing will provide the relevant organisations with an opportunity to bring their concerns before the Committee in a public hearing."

The Refugee Council of Australia; Refugees, Survivors and Ex-Detainees (RISE), Asylum Seeker Resource Centre; and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation will appear before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security at the public hearing in Canberra on Thursday 16 June.

The Committee chaired by Anthony Byrne (Member for Holt, VIC) is investigating issues relating to the visa security assessments carried out by ASIO. Significantly, the Committee has called for publicly acknowledged officers of ASIO to appear before it.

The public hearing will be held from **11.10am** to **12.30pm** in **Committee Room 2R1** at **Parliament House, Canberra**, on **Thursday 16 June**.

The hearing will be webcast live on: http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

Further information on the hearings, including a full program, are available on the Committee's inquiry website at: **www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis**

For media inquiries, contact the Committee Chairman, Hon Anthony Byrne on 02 6277 4309.

For all other inquiries, contact the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Secretary Mr Robert Little by phone on **(02) 6277 4348**, via email at **Robert.Little.Reps@aph.gov.au** or visit the inquiry website at http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/adminexp9/index.htm/

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