



## **Submission No 107**

### **Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia**

**Organisation:** Department of Immigration and Multicultural and  
Indigenous Affairs

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DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL  
AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Deputy Secretary

Ms Janet Holmes  
Secretary  
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Holmes

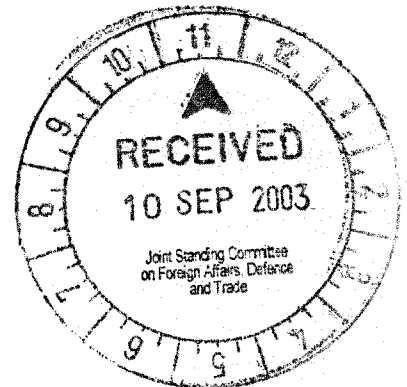
I refer to questions on notice that were taken by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs during the hearings into Australia's Relations with Indonesia by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade on 27 June 2003.

Attached are responses to these questions. I apologise for the delay in sending these answers to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

*Jar* E V Killesteyn

8 September 2003



**Questions on Notice:**

**Question:** The business migration figures show that 70 per cent are establishing a business after the period for which they are being examined. That looks a bit worse than for other some other nations in the region. Has that been reflected by any change in attitude towards the admission of people from Jakarta?

**Answer:**

Australia has non-discriminatory universal criteria which all applicants for a Business Skills visa must meet.

Application rates in the Business Skills category from Indonesia have been falling since the peak in 1998. In the 2002-2003 program year, 182 cases (805 persons) were lodged, compared to 338 cases (1,549 persons) in 1999-2000.

The decline in application rates is largely because of the improved domestic situation in Indonesia and the difficulty applicants now have in meeting the Australian dollar values in this category of migration (ie net assets in business and total assets available for transfer) due to the declining value of the rupiah. Applicants are assessed on the basis of their business performance in two of the last four years.

Applications, by Indonesian citizens, for the new two-stage Business Skills category, introduced on 1 March 2003, have been small. The declining value of the rupiah may continue to be a factor, but it may also be explained by applicants needing to demonstrate functional English for those sub-classes that are not State or Territory sponsored.

Business skills visa holders are monitored at the 24 and 36 month point after their arrival in Australia to determine whether they are meeting their obligations in relation to the grant of a Business Skills visa. The Migration Act requires Business Skills visa holders to obtain a substantial ownership interest and participate at a senior level in the day-to-day management in an eligible business in Australia and or have at least made a genuine effort to do so within 3 years of arrival. In the 2002-03 program year, 844 Business Skills visas (both primary and secondary visa holders) were cancelled, as a result of the primary visa holder failing to meet their obligations under the Migration Act. Of this number, 338 (40%) were Indonesian citizens.

**Question: Visitors – Is it possible to get some figures in table 11 comparing Indonesia with basically similar risk factors rather than globally.**

**Answer:**

**The following table provides a comparison of Indonesia's non return rate compared to other countries**

<b>Non-Return Rate (NRR)</b>						
<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>1997 - 1998</b>	<b>1998 - 99</b>	<b>1999 - 00</b>	<b>2000 - 01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002 - 03 YTD (as at 31/05/03)</b>
China (PRC) *	12.94	10.86	8.28	4.11	2.14	1.08
Fiji *	8.79	7.87	8.38	8.80	4.61	2.58
India	6.64	7.00	6.98	5.56	4.14	4.34
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>6.71</b>	<b>4.96</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>1.70</b>
Israel *	8.74	8.33	7.92	5.24	2.55	2.13
Philippines *	13.72	15.92	14.72	7.59	3.84	1.60
Russian Federation *	5.93	8.31	9.06	5.61	2.64	1.95
Sri Lanka *	12.26	10.84	8.42	5.19	3.68	2.26
Vietnam *	23.30	25.46	22.12	10.62	6.25	3.21
Yugoslavia (Fed Rep of) *	21.57	24.95	15.77	6.90	3.54	3.98
<b>Global Average</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>1.60</b>
<b>Non-ETA Average</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>5.91</b>	<b>4.73</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>2.64</b>
<i>* Currently gazetted on the Risk Factor List</i>						

**Question: Were any members of Jemaah Islamiah listed on our system (MAL) and if so when? I am interested in leading members such as Imam Samara and Basher. Could you come back to us with information on when they were listed, if they were listed?**

**Answer**

When individuals associated with terrorist organisations come to notice they are entered onto MAL.

**Question: Post Tampa how many illegal migrants have we had through Indonesia and how many have you returned? Do you have those figures?**

**Answer**

**People Refused Immigration Clearance at Australian Airports**

In the period post Tampa from Sept 01 to 30 June 02 there was a total of 39 unauthorised air arrivals from Indonesia. Compared with the period of 1 July 02 to 30 June 03 there was a total of 20 people from Indonesia refused immigration clearance at Australian airports .

With regard to Air Arrivals for the period Sept 01 to 30 June 02, a total of 39 Indonesians were returned within 72hrs of arrival. Further, in comparison to the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 a total of 20 Indonesians were returned within 72 hours of their being refused immigration clearance at Australian Airports.

The main reasons for the decline in people being refused immigration clearance at airports can be attributed to contributions made by DIMIA through the placement of Airport Liaison Officers (ALO) and Offshore Compliance Staff working at various overseas posts. Their valued work has contributed to assisting in detecting people before they depart.

**Question: Post Tampa there were no boats. Was there any increase in the number of illegals coming through the airports?**

In the period following Tampa there were 4 unauthorised boat arrivals from Indonesia with a total of 600 persons onboard being returned to Indonesia.

In the year 2002-2003 there were no unauthorised boat arrivals and in the 2003-2004 financial year to date there has been one unauthorised boat arrival. The 53 people on board this vessel are Vietnamese nationals.