

The Review

In mid 1999, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs asked the Committee to review and report on the suite of State-specific Migration Mechanisms. While completing its review of the immigration entry arrangements for the Olympic and Paralympic Games¹, the Committee commenced work on the review.

The inquiry into State-specific Migration Mechanisms (SsMM) was advertised on 26 June 1999 in the *Weekend Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Melbourne Age*, *Brisbane Courier Mail*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, the *West Australian*, the *Hobart Mercury*, the *Northern Territory News*, and the *Canberra Times*.

In addition, letters were sent to all State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers and to a range of government departments and organisations with migration interests. Faxes outlining the review were sent direct to 722 local government authorities, 28 regional certifying bodies and 77 regional and/or economic development agencies. Information about the Committee's review was also distributed at the Regional Australia Summit in Canberra 27-29 October 1999, and at a conference on regional Australia in Canberra in November 2000.

These moves were followed up by direct consultations with appropriate local government authorities and other bodies covering areas from which submissions had been received.

The Committee received 68 submissions from 44 individuals and organisations, and heard from 38 witnesses at public hearings in Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns,

¹ Joint Standing Committee on Migration - *Going For Gold: Immigration entry arrangements for the Olympic and Paralympic Games*, September 1999.

Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Kalgoorlie, Melbourne, Mount Gambier, and Smithton.²

Twice the Committee had to set aside this review of SsMM to consider more pressing matters referred to it by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs: the reviews of Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No2) 2000, and of Migration Regulation 4.31B.³

2 Details of submissions, hearings and exhibits are at Appendices A, B and C respectively.

3 Joint Standing Committee on Migration - *Review of Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No2) 2000*, October 2000; and *Review of Migration Regulation 4.31B*, June 2001.