



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION

Review of Migration Regulation 4.31B

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 17 December 2002

New Inquiry

Review of Migration Regulation 4.31B

Federal Parliament's Migration Committee is to review Migration Regulation 4.31B.

Migration Regulation 4.31B imposes a \$1000 fee on people who have been refused a Protection Visa and who then appeal unsuccessfully to the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT). The fee applies only to unsuccessful appellants.

The fee, introduced by the Government in 1997, is designed to be a deterrent to non-genuine review applications. It was introduced along with a number of other measures to address perceived abuse in the refugee application process.

The Committee last reviewed the regulation in 2001 and recommended that:

"Migration Regulation 4.31B be retained, subject to a two-year sunset clause commencing on 1 July 2001, and that its operation be reviewed by the Committee early in 2003."

The Regulation had been previously reviewed in 1999.

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has asked the Committee to again review the operation of the regulation and to report to Parliament no later than 30 April 2003.

The closing date for submissions is 20 February 2002.

For more information, including copies of submissions, visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/regulation2003/index.htm or phone the Migration Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

MEDIA CONTACT

For interview: Migration Committee Chair, Teresa Gambaro (07) 3283 4277