

Migration Institute of Australia Limited (ABN 83 003 409 390)

# Migration Agents Registration Authority

Ms Louise Gell  
Acting Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitution Legislation Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Ms Gell

I refer to the attached letter to the Hon. Nick Sherry in relation to his request for a copy of the letter to the editor of the Australian.

If I can be of further assistance to you please call me on (02) 9299 9434 ext 284.

Yours faithfully

David Mawson  
Executive Officer

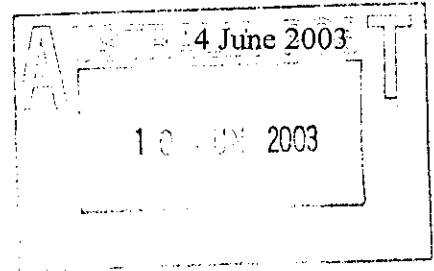
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# Migration Agents Registration Authority



The Hon. Nick Sherry  
PO Box 858  
Devonport Tasmania 7310

Dear Senator

At the appearance of the Migration Agents Registration Authority at Budget Estimates on Thursday 29 May 2003, you requested a copy of the Letter to the Editor of the Australian Newspaper sent by the MARA.

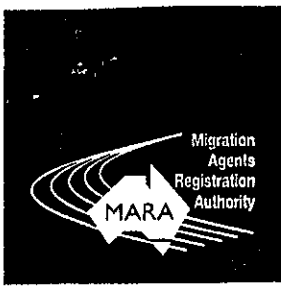
Please find a copy of the letter that was faxed to the Australian on 21 May 2003.

If I can be of any further assistance to you please call me on (02) 9221 4666.

Yours faithfully

**Laurette Chao**  
Chairman

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Migration Institute of Australia Limited (ABN 83 003 409 390)

# Migration Agents Registration Authority

21 May 2003

Matthew Spencer  
The Letters Editor  
The Australian  
FAX 9288 2824

Dear Mr Spencer,

Elizabeth Wynhausen's article (16/5) on an individual's appeal against a decision by the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) to refuse him registration as a migration agent gave an excellent insight into the illegal and unscrupulous activities of a very small number of agents.

Lest your readers get the wrong impression of the MARA's activities as a regulator of migration agents, I can assure them that it is a rigorous but fair regulator, which works closely with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. Like its parent body, the Migration Institute of Australia Limited (MIA), the MARA fully supports Continued Professional Development programs as a means of raising the skill levels of all agents.

It is pertinent to note that the individual before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the subject of Ms Wynhausen's article, is one of seven individual's currently before the courts fighting MARA decisions to deregister or suspend their registration. So far this year, the MARA has refused to register 24 people who applied to become agents - 10 of these refusals related to integrity issues. It has also sanctioned 10 migration agents.

The MARA oversees the activities of more than 3000 agents. Of these, 387 chose not to seek renewal of their registration this year. Some of these were under investigation by the MARA. The public can be assured that the MARA continually seeks to weed out any "bad apples" from a profession whose standards we constantly seek to raise to world's best practice. I must emphasise that the vast majority of agents are highly professional, with less than 10% attracting complaints and many of these complaints are unable to be substantiated on the facts.

Laurette Chao,  
President MIA  
Chairman MARA  
Level 3  
83 York Street  
Sydney, NSW  
(02) 9221 4666

**FAXED**  
21 May

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