

# Reviews and inquiries

## A Migration System for Australia's Future

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### Overview

On 2 September 2022, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Clare O'Neil MP, announced a comprehensive review of Australia's migration system to ensure it better meets existing challenges and sets a clear direction for the coming decades.

The Minister has appointed three eminent persons to guide a review of Australia's migration system. This review will inform a Strategy: A Migration System for Australia's Future (the Strategy).

- Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM
- Dr Joanna Howe
- Mr John Azarias

The Strategy will ensure the migration system serves Australia's national interests and complements the skills and capabilities of Australian workers.

It will establish the core principles on which Australia's migration system will rest, and guide future reform. The strategy will focus on enhancing Australia's productivity.

The eminent persons are scheduled to report to Government in early 2023.

The review is now accepting written submissions (see below). Submission will close on 15 December 2022.

### Eminent persons

[Ask a question](#)

**Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM** is the Chancellor of Macquarie University and a former senior Australian public servant. Dr Parkinson has served as:

## Departmental reviews

- the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- the Secretary to the Treasury
- the inaugural Secretary of the Department of Climate Change, and
- an International Monetary Fund official.

Dr Parkinson holds a PhD and Master of Arts from Princeton University, a Master of Economics from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Adelaide.



**Dr Joanna Howe** is an Associate Professor in Law at the University of Adelaide and a consultant with Harmers Workplace Lawyers.

Dr Howe holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Law from the University of Oxford where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. In 2021, Dr Howe was appointed by the Minister for Immigration to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration. In 2019, she was appointed as the Australian representative to an International Labour Organization (ILO) working group on temporary labour migration.

Dr Howe is a leading expert on the legal regulation of temporary labour migration.



**Mr John Azarias** is a former senior partner at Deloitte in Sydney. He has carried out reviews commissioned by the Commonwealth Government in the areas of:

- Defence
- Immigration
- Foreign Affairs and Trade, and
- Agriculture.

He has also conducted a review of the Board of Treasurers (BoT) for State and Territory Treasurers.

# Departmental reviews

Mr Azarias was chair of the panel for the National Agricultural Workforce Strategy: Learning to Excel in 2021. He was chair of the panel for the 2014 review Temporary Skilled Migration: Robust New Foundations, and conducted the Review of the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) in 2016. He authored a report on Australia–EU relations in 2002 and was also a member of the Defence Management Review panel in 2006.

Mr Azarias is a former member of the Ministerial Advisory Council for Skilled Migration.

Mr Azarias is the co-founder of the Lysicrates Foundation, which supports new Australian playwriting.

## Terms of Reference

See [Terms of Reference \(735KB PDF\) \(/reports-and-pubs/files/terms-of-reference-migration-strategy.pdf\)](/reports-and-pubs/files/terms-of-reference-migration-strategy.pdf)

## Submissions

The review is now accepting written submissions. A [Discussion Paper \(/reports-and-pubs/files/reviews-and-inquiries/discussion\\_paper.pdf\)](/reports-and-pubs/files/reviews-and-inquiries/discussion_paper.pdf) has been prepared to guide stakeholder input. Submissions will close on 15 December 2022.

Submissions can be lodged on [A Migration System for Australia's Future – Public Submissions \(/reports-and-publications/reviews-and-inquiries/departmental-reviews/migration-system-for-australias-future/submission\)](/reports-and-publications/reviews-and-inquiries/departmental-reviews/migration-system-for-australias-future/submission).

## More information

The Minister has appointed three eminent persons to guide a review of Australia's migration system, which will inform the Strategy:

- Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM
- Dr Joanna Howe
- Mr John Azarias

The review will be informed by research, analysis and extensive consultations with:

- Government
- unions
- industry
- business
- migrant communities
- academia and civil society
- state and territory governments, and
- like-minded partners internationally.

The three eminent persons will be supported by a taskforce within the Department of Home Affairs.

## Selection of eminent persons Departmental reviews

The Minister has selected the eminent persons based on their distinguished expertise. They have a reputation for making a positive contribution to Australia's economic and public policy achievements. They have experience in business, technology and major public reviews. They also reflect Australian society in terms of gender balance and migration backgrounds.

### Community consultation

Stakeholders are invited to make submissions to inform the Strategy. Submissions can be lodged on [A Migration System for Australia's Future – Public Submissions \(/reports-and-publications/reviews-and-inquiries/departmental-reviews/migration-system-for-australias-future/submission\)](#).

There will also be targeted direct consultations with a range of key stakeholders in January-February 2023.

These consultations are separate from, and in addition to, the consultations as part of the planning process for the permanent Migration Program. An invitation for public submissions to the 2023-24 Migration Program is forthcoming. More information will be available on the [Australia's 2022-23 Migration Program \(/help-and-support/how-to-engage-us/consultations/australias-22-23-migration-program\)](#) page.

### Impacts on visa applications and eligibility

The Strategy will include recommended reforms to Australia's migration system for Government consideration. It will not affect eligibility for visas already granted or applications underway.

Submissions made to the Department regarding the Strategy will not influence decisions on current visa applications.

Personal enquiries regarding visa applications will not be considered or responded to. Refer instead to the [Visa processing times \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times\)](#) page on the Home Affairs website or contact the [Global Service Centre \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us/telephone\)](#).

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