



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday 8 March 2010

AUSTRALIA'S HEARTLESS BUREAUCRACY

The professional association representing migration agents, the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA), is disappointed by the callous mismanagement by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) in the case of Edward Joseph.

Following 14 years of bungled intervention requests and applications for asylum, the Sri Lankan national elected Friday 5 March to leave Australia voluntarily, hours ahead of his scheduled deportation.

Joseph arrived here from war-torn Sri Lanka in 1996 and is the sole carer for his 92-year-old mother, Irene Joseph, who chose to travel with her son despite being an Australian permanent resident. Ms. Joseph's closest remaining relative in Australia is a 79-year-old stepdaughter.

In the face of appeals on the Josephs' behalf from health experts, trade unions and high profile lawyers and migration agents, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Evans, joins with his predecessors Kevin Andrews, Amanda Vanstone and Phillip Ruddock in electing to not hear Edward Joseph's final appeal.

The DIAC exists to 'enrich Australia through the well managed entry and settlement of people', but it disappointingly it elected the path of stagnant bureaucracy in this case.

'This case serves to show the heartless side of Government bureaucracy, when Australia can treat an old woman so badly,' says MIA CEO Maurene Horder.

In a time of global insecurity, natural disaster and war, Government must make difficult decisions; however, the elderly, infirm and at-risk must not become unintended victims of Australia's vigilance at its borders or blanket policy application without flexibility, nuance or even practicality.

Available for Interview:
Maurene Horder
Chief Executive Officer
Migration Institute of Australia

Contact:
Brian Duff
Communications Manager
Phone: 0432 937 862, Email: brian.duff@mia.org.au

MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

T 02 9279 3140 | F 02 9279 3172 | E info@mia.org.au | W www.mia.org.au
Post: PO Box Q102, QVB Post Office NSW 1230 | Street: Level 3, 83 York Street, Sydney

ABN 83 003 409 390