



IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday 6 April 2010

## THE MIA WELCOMES MINISTER FOR POPULATION, HON. TONY BURKE MP

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) welcomes the Easter appointment of Hon. Tony Burke MP as Australia's first ever Minister for Population.

Charged with, in the words of the Prime Minister, '...developing Australia's first national population strategy,' Mr Burke is a timely entry into a debate which has been vexed to date with obstructionist politicking and partisan discord.

A clear, precise and measured national population policy should be a legitimate, bipartisan goal of all political parties as they seek to best serve a shared national interest.

'This new population policy unit should not and cannot simply be about managing a political debate,' said Maurene Horder, MIA CEO. 'It should be about managing a population objective for 10, 20, 50 years to come.

'Any politicising of our population and migration policies undervalues the complexity of the issues at hand and potentially draws out the spectre of the 'Ugly Australian' through racialised and bigoted reactions,' she continued.

It is the MIA's sincere belief and hope that Mr Burke, in his newly created role, will bring good policy outcomes and calm to an issue increasingly riven with destructive partisan bickering.

Understanding that immigration is a key aspect of a national population policy, the MIA will host a national conference 7-10 October 2010 in Sydney to facilitate a temperate, constructive and rational debate on population and immigration policy.

The three day event will encompass voices and ideas from across a wide spectrum of political, industrial, ecological, educational and humanitarian perspectives.

**Available for Interview:**

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