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**Immigration Review Tribunal - Access and Equity initiatives**

A large part of the potential client base of the Immigration Review Tribunal will comprise people who do not have English as their first language. While persons receiving an unfavourable decision from the Migration Internal Review Office are automatically informed of their right to apply to the Tribunal, the Tribunal is attempting to ensure that all members of its potential client base are aware of the Tribunal's existence and of the availability of independent merits review of migration decisions.

To that end the Tribunal has had its information pamphlet translated into 12 community language: Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Vietnamese, Turkish, Russian, Polish, Serbian and Croatian. Three additional languages, Tagalog, Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Melayu, are to be added in the near future. Copies of the translations are available from all the Tribunal's registries. Steps are being taken to ensure that the local offices of the Telephone Interpreter Service, Migrant Resource Centres and Ethnic Community Councils have copies of all the translations of the pamphlet and that individual community associations have copies of the translations in relevant languages. Tribunal staff are also meeting with groups of community workers to inform them of the Tribunal's functions and how it goes about its work.

The Tribunal's information pamphlet is currently being redrafted to take account of recent changes to the relevant legislation and when it is reprinted it is planned to include a panel indicating in all the languages concerned that copies of a translation of the pamphlet in those languages are available from the offices of the Tribunal. In this fashion the Tribunal hopes to promote equality of access across its potential client base.

**Immigration Review Tribunal - Research and Information Bulletin**

The Immigration Review Tribunal intends to produce a regular Bulletin providing summaries of its decisions. The primary purpose of the Bulletin will be to assist members of the Tribunal in keeping up to date with the latest Tribunal decisions. However the Bulletin will have a secondary purpose in communicating the Tribunal's decisions to a wider audience: officers within the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, bodies providing advice on migration matters, lawyers specialising in the field, migration consultants and other community organisations with an interest in this area.

The Bulletin will summarise Tribunal decisions (although, as the number of decisions increases, it is intended that many of these summaries will be very brief where the decision in question raises no new questions of law). It will also

summarise selected decisions of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the courts which are considered relevant to the Tribunal's work and it will note relevant legislative developments.

Initially at least the Bulletin will be made available free to all interested persons. Requests to be placed on the mailing list should be addressed to:

The Editor  
Research & Information Bulletin  
Immigration Review Tribunal  
PO Box 3001  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (06) 247 0777  
Facsimile: (06) 257 6867

Copies of the Tribunal's decisions are available for inspection and purchase at the Tribunal's registries.

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