

Senator, The Hon Chris Evans
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

12 June 2009

Re: New association for Registered Migration Agents

Dear Mr Evans,

We are writing to advise you that a new association, the Migration Alliance (MA), has recently been established in Australia to provide Registered Migration Agents with an alternative to the current Migration Institute of Australia (MIA). In its embryonic phase, the website can be viewed at www.migrationalliance.com.au

The reasons for establishing another professional body are many. Not least of which is the despair felt by many agents who over the years have had reason to question whether the MIA has acted in members' best interests or whether the board have been largely self-serving. These concerns are multi-faceted and most, if not all, would be known to you. We would of course be happy to discuss these concerns further with you however, if necessary.

With the advent of the OMARA coming into place on the 1 July 2009, the Migration Alliance seeks your authority to have its own representative on the advisory board supporting this new body.

Inaugural members of the MA are all migration agents of many years standing who have been concerned at the lack of professionalism and leadership shown by the MIA. Some are accredited specialist immigration lawyers. To start a new association with a clean slate and without the drawbacks inherent from the old is seen as a wonderful opportunity for Registered Migration Agents.

A tipping point has been reached within the migration profession and the MA is the new face of this ground-swelling change. We therefore encourage you to embrace this spirit of reform by allowing the MA a representative on the OMARA advisory board.

We would be grateful if your staff could make this letter available to Mr Andrew Metcalfe, Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and look forward to your earliest response.

Yours sincerely



Sheelagh Blanckenberg (Ms)
Registered Migration Agent (MARN 0100161)

Signed on behalf of the Migration Alliance