

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

ASYLUM SEEKERS (REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2017

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The *Asylum Seekers (Amendment) Bill* is a Bill for the *Asylum Seekers (Regional Processing Centre)(Amendment) Act 2017*.

This memorandum provides an explanation of the Bill and is only intended to indicate the general effect.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Clause 1 provides that, once enacted, the short title of the Bill will be the *Asylum Seekers (Regional Processing Centre)(Amendment) Act 2017*.

Clause 2 sets out when the Bill's provisions will commence. The commencement date is on certification by the Speaker.

Clause 3 is the enabling provision for the amendment of the *Asylum Seekers (Regional Processing Centre) Act 2012*.

Clause 4 amends section 3 of the Act.

The term '**Secretary**' is amended from 'Secretary for Justice & Border Control' to 'Secretary for Multicultural Affairs'. This will allow any reference to '**Secretary**' under the Act to mean the 'Secretary for Multicultural Affairs'.

Clause 5 amends section 16 of the Act by omitting and substituting subsection (1) to allow the Secretary for Multicultural Affairs to enter into agreements with any service provider on behalf of the Republic.

Currently, the Secretary for Justice & Border Control is authorised and has a discretionary power to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Republic with a service provider.

With the establishment of the Department of Multicultural Affairs and its mandate, it is imperative that it be responsible for the provision of support for asylum seekers in the Republic, thus the need for the changes to the relevant law.