

MEDIA RELEASE

On Friday 10 November 2017, Mr David Coleman MP, The Federal Member for Banks, invited a Bangladeshi team to meet with the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, The Hon Peter Dutton MP to discuss the community's concerns.

The team consisted of:

Mohammed Jahangir Alam, Chairman ABSCA Inc. and Team Leader.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, Consultant to UNDP, Bangladesh and President, Bangla Proshar Committee

Mosharaf Hossain, General Secretary, BANSW Inc.

Md. Enamul Haque, Ex Bankstown-Canterbury Liberal candidate for Bass Hill ward

Abul Kalam Azad, Editor of NobodharaNews.net and White Ribbon Bangladesh Community Ambassador

Nasim Samad, Vice Chairman, ABSCA Inc. and Community Ambassador of XXI Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018

The team raised the following concerns and the Minister participated, clarified and contributed in the discussion

- Delay in issuing of parent migration visa under subclass 143. While the decision on this visa remains pending, tourist or any other visas of such applicants are normally declined
- Spouse migration now takes 9-12 months for processing, previously it used to take 3-6 months
- The need and importance of the International Social Security Agreement between Australia & Bangladesh.
- Review of skill migration list to include additional professionals from Bangladesh.
- Creation of additional category for small business migration
- Reconsideration of IELTS scores applying for PR.

The Minister recommended that community send discussion paper for review and necessary actions by his Department.

The Minister and Mr Coleman noted the valuable contribution made by the Bangladeshi community.

The Bangladeshi team thanked the Minister for arranging the meeting and for listening to Bangladesh Community concern. The team also thanked Mr David Coleman MP for convening the meeting enabling the community to better understand the policy of Department of Immigration and Border Protection.