

panels from two member panels, as I recall, was largely cost effectiveness and efficiency. The practice of single member panels at the Board was well established and I would even say entrenched since it was accepted by everyone, by the time the current Act came into force.”

The same sentiments are echoed by the New Zealand Refugee Status Appeals Authority.

Final comment

The Refugee Appeal Board is adamant that the proposed wording of section 8C(2) cannot work in practice and should not be accepted as it stands. The Board submits, with respect, that the proposal the Board has made (on page 9) is the only reasonable way to go in the future.

The Refugee Appeal Board thanks the Honourable members of the Portfolio Committee for having been granted the chance to comment on and to make its inputs to the Refugee Amendment Bill, 2008.

Tjerk Damstra
(Acting) Chairperson
Refugee Appeal Board.

