



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Social Inclusion Division

GUIDELINES

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES (OVERSEAS) SCHEME

The following are the guidelines adopted by the Attorney-General of Australia for consideration of financial assistance for legal costs and related expenses incurred overseas in special circumstances other than for the purpose of recovering custody of a child.

The Attorney-General may authorise financial assistance for overseas legal costs and related expenses in the following cases:

- (a) where there are special circumstances which lead to the conclusion that there is a moral obligation on the Commonwealth to make a payment; or
- (b) where the merits of the applicant's case for which the assistance is sought, the applicant's lack of means to pay the costs, the lack of legal aid for the applicant in the country where the costs have been or are to be incurred and the applicant's connection with Australia constitute, in the Attorney-General's opinion, compassionate grounds for the Commonwealth's meeting some or all of the costs.

Applicants for payment of legal costs and related expenses in the circumstances referred to should set out the matters which they consider constitute those special circumstances relating them, as appropriate, to the above guidelines.

Applications for assistance, or inquiries relating to the provision of legal or financial assistance by the Commonwealth, should be addressed to:

Assistant Secretary
Legal Assistance Branch
Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6141 4770
Facsimile: (02) 6141 4926