

**High Commission of India  
Canberra**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**INDIAN COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND**

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India have decided to set up an Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for the welfare of Indian students and other Indian citizens in distress in Australia. The Fund will provide essential welfare services for students and other Indian nationals without other means.

The ICWF is already in operation in several countries, notably in the Middle East for the last several years, and is being extended to 24 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA, Canada, France, Germany and others.

The Government of India is providing the initial seed money so that the ICWF can begin operations immediately. With a view to building up the Fund for the future, an additional fee of A\$ 2 will be charged with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010 on each application for a consular service. This will be in addition to the already prescribed fees and service charges.

The Fund will be administered by the High Commission of India, Canberra in coordination with the Consulate General of India, Sydney; Consulate General of India, Melbourne and the Honorary Consulates in Perth and Brisbane.

26 May, 2010