Improving rural livelihoods with the Seasonal Workers Programme

The current and future workforce requirements for sectors that may benefit from seasonal workers will be investigated in upcoming public hearings in Canberra.

Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration will continue its inquiry into the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) when it holds public hearings in Canberra on the 9th and 16th September 2015.

Committee Chair, Louise Markus said remittances from the SWP are a key source of funds for programme participants.

"The Seasonal Worker Programme provides potential benefits to the participants of the programme through improved rural livelihoods, small business growth, and poverty alleviation through remitted income," she said.

The committee will hear from the Development Policy Centre and the National Farmers' Federation where it will examine:

- how the SWP supports development in the Pacific;
- the role of seasonal workers in the horticulture industry;
- whether the SWP should be expanded to include other countries and sectors;
- how the SWP affects Australian jobs;
- increasing access for overseas women and youth workers; and
- issues with attracting seasonal workers, including the granting of visas.

Public hearing details:

Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2015
Time: 9.50 am
Location: Committee room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.

Date: Wednesday, 16 September 2015
Time: 9.50 am
Location: Committee room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.

The hearing will be audio webcast live on: **www.aph.gov.au/live**

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the committee's website: http://www.aph.gov.au/mig

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mrs Louise Markus MP on (02) 4577 2631 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 2371 (Parliament House)