



New inquiry into temporary business visas

Federal Parliament's Joint Migration Committee is to inquire into Australia's temporary skilled migration program. Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP, today announced an inquiry into eligibility requirements and monitoring, enforcement and reporting arrangements for temporary business visas.

"Australia has invested heavily in training young Australians, but strong economic growth in Australia has led to a skills shortage in key industry sectors," Mr Randall said.

"Australia's temporary skilled migration 457 visas are playing an important role in attracting people with the skills Australia needs."

The Committee wants to inquire into the adequacy of current eligibility requirements for temporary business visas. It also wants to look at the effectiveness of monitoring, enforcement and reporting arrangements for this visa category.

"The Australian Government recently announced measures to improve monitoring and compliance under the temporary skilled migration program," Mr Randall said.

"Temporary skilled migrants are vital to Australia's ongoing prosperity. The Committee therefore wants to see if the current arrangements for temporary business visas are functioning efficiently or need to be improved."

Members of the public will be able to make submissions in writing to the Committee until 2 February 2007. Public hearings will be held from mid February 2007.

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/mig> or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or emailing jscm@apf.gov.au.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP, on (02) 6277 2090 (Canberra) or (08) 9390 1211 (electorate office).

For background information, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/mig/reports.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.