

27 October 2008

Peter Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au



Dear Mr Hallahan,

Re: Inquiry into the Migration Legislation Amendment (Worker Protection) Bill 2008

The Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union of Australia (CFMEU) are grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry.

We draw to your attention the attached submission we made in July this year in response to DIAC's Discussion Paper on '*Business (Long Stay) Subclass 457 and related temporary visa reforms*' for a detailed explanation of the CFMEU's approach to these issues.

In brief though the CFMEU welcomes this Bill and its intent, we regard this Bill as a long overdue start on better regulation in this area.

In particular the CFMEU supports the Bill's provisions that will provide for;

- expanded powers to monitor and investigate possible non-compliance by sponsors;
- introduction of penalties for employers found in breach of their obligations;
- improved information sharing across all levels of government including the ATO; and
- better defined sponsorship obligations, with obligations to be defined by Regulation.

The CFMEU appreciates that this Bill has been introduced before the 457 visa Integrity Review has made its report to the Minister. The CFMEU supports the Minister's view that the appropriate modality in these circumstances is to frame sponsor obligations by Regulation in the light of the Integrity Review. We look forward to participating in the foreshadowed stakeholder consultation over the content of such Regulations.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Sutton'.

John Sutton
National Secretary
CFMEU