



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 23 June 2015

Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP
Deputy: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP

Addressing labour shortages and alleviating poverty with the Seasonal Worker Programme

Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration will investigate a number of issues including whether the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) should be expanded to include other countries and sectors, when it holds its first public hearing as part of its inquiry into the Programme tomorrow in Canberra.

Committee Chair, Louise Markus said the SWP provides significant benefits to Australia's horticulture industry, our Pacific Island partners and Timor-Leste.

"The Seasonal Worker Programme increases productivity in areas of labour shortages. It also provides potential benefits to the participants of the programme through skills development, knowledge transfer and poverty alleviation," she said.

The committee will hear from the Department of Employment as it examines:

- 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;
- how the SWP supports development in the Pacific; and
- issues with attracting seasonal workers, including the granting of visas.

Public hearing details:

Date: Wednesday, 24 June 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)

For further information: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560, via email at jscm@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/mig>