



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 27 October 2015

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

Seasonal Worker Programme inquiry continues in Victoria

Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration will continue its inquiry into the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) when it holds public hearings in Melbourne and Pakenham on 28 and 29 October 2015.

Established in 2012, the Program now provides over 3,000 seasonal workers to sectors of the agriculture industry and accommodation providers.

Committee Chair Louise Markus MP said:

"The Seasonal Worker Program benefits Australia's horticulture industry, increasing productivity in areas of labour shortages. It also provides potential benefits to the participants of the program through skills development, knowledge transfer, and supports development in the Pacific," she said.

The Committee will take evidence from representatives of the agriculture industry, labour hirers, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and business owners who have utilised the Seasonal Worker Programme.

The inquiry is focused on:

- How new sectors could benefit from the program;
- How the program affects Australian jobs;
- Increasing access for overseas women and youth workers;
- How the program supports development in the Pacific; and
- Issues with attracting seasonal workers, including the granting of visas.

Public hearing details:

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2015

Time: 9.00 am to 5.30 pm

Location: Room G1, Parliament of Victoria offices, 55 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne.

Date: Thursday, 29 October 2015

Time: 9.30 am to 11:00 am

Location: Seminar Room, Cardinia Cultural Centre, 40 Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham.

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

For a program and submissions, visit the Committee's website: 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 or via email at jscm@aph.gov.au