



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Migration committee to examine skilled migrant program at Canberra hearing

Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration will hold its first public hearing as part of its inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Programme (BIIP) in Canberra on 14 May.

Committee chair Louise Markus said skilled migrants make a valuable contribution to Australia through stimulating economic growth, creating jobs, increasing entrepreneurial talent and providing business expertise.

"It is therefore important to investigate the decline in the application rates for the BIIP and examine whether the BIIP is meeting its objectives," she said.

The committee will hear from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection as it also examines:

- the current eligibility criteria, with particular regard to the operation of the BIIP points test, and its effectiveness in selecting suitable migrants
- weighing the size of the current programme against the emphasis placed on other elements of the skilled stream of the migration programme in generating economic growth

The public hearing will be on **Wednesday, 14 May 2014** from **9.50 am** in Committee Room 1R5, 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>