



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Joint Standing Committee on Migration

New inquiry

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Issue date: 17 November 2016

## New inquiry focuses on youth migrants and gangs

The Parliament's Migration Committee today announced an inquiry into migrant settlement outcomes, with a particular focus on youth gang activity.

Committee Chair Jason Wood MP, Member for La Trobe, said that the settlement outcomes of migrants are central to ensuring the continuing success of multiculturalism in Australia.

"Recent events in Victoria show that youth migrants experiencing social marginalisation are getting involved in gang activity," Mr Wood said.

"It is timely that we examine the adequacy the settlement services, and consider whether mechanisms such the *Migration Act 1958* character test are useful for addressing issues arising from social marginalisation and disengagement."

The Committee will also consider how the English language skills of migrants influence settlement outcomes and whether current visa criteria place sufficient emphasis on migrants' prospects for settling effectively in Australia

The Committee would like to hear from all individuals or organisations interested in the inquiry. The closing date for submissions is 31 January 2017.

#### Media enquiries:

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#### To make a submission to the inquiry or for further information:

Joint Standing Committee on Migration

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