



NEW INQUIRY

Regional skills relocation

Opportunities to address skills shortages in regional Australia through relocation strategies

The Global Financial Crisis has had a significant impact on employment opportunities in regional Australia. However some regional areas are already experiencing significant skills shortages as industries are again expanding. To achieve Australia's full economic potential during the global recovery, urgent action is needed to ensure that regional industry can operate at full capacity.

The Committee has been asked by the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations to inquire into and report on the applicability of government employment policies to address the skills shortages in regional Australia focusing on opportunities to support the relocation of unemployed workers from areas of high unemployment to areas experiencing skills shortages.

Previous attempts to address skills shortages through the relocation of workers has met with limited success. "The House Employment Committee includes both government and opposition members from across Australia. We will be working together cooperatively to assess and make recommendations on ways to improve government relocation policies to ensure workers are aware of, and able to benefit from, employment opportunities in regional areas." Ms Jackson said.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make written submissions to the inquiry by **16 April 2010**, after which the committee will hold public hearings.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, background documents, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ewr> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewr.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Sharryn Jackson, on (08) 9359 1188
For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162