

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 22 June 2010

Chair – Sharryn Jackson MP

Regional skills relocation

Sydney Public Hearing

The Committee is inquiring into 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.

While in Sydney on Friday 25 June 2010, the Committee will be talking to:

- ACTU;
- CofFEE;
- Regional Development, Far West NSW;
- Campbell Page;
- Skills DMC;
- Australian Services Union, and
- CFMEU.

"The House Employment Committee is looking forward to gaining an insight into the New South Wales perspective with a view to making recommendations on ways to improve Federal government relocation policies to ensure workers are aware of, and able to benefit from, employment opportunities nationally," Ms Jackson said.

"The Committee is looking forward to the discussions with unions and employment practitioners on the best possible policy approach to improve current government policies. Many industries throughout regional New South Wales in particular could benefit from a holistic and practical approach to relocation strategies."

Everyone is welcome to observe the day's discussions. Anyone wishing to attend the hearing please contact the Secretariat on 02 6277 4162 before 5.00 pm on Wednesday 23 June 2010 so that access can be arranged. The public hearing will be held on Friday 25 June 2010 from 9.15am until 3.45 pm in the Conference Room, 8th Floor, Charterbridge House, 70 Phillip Street, Sydney.

Written submissions from interested persons and organisations are also welcome. This hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/.

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 <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/ewr</u> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing <u>ewr.reps@aph.gov.au</u>.

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