



Submission No 53

Review of Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEFENCE AND
TRADE**

**INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA**

**Updated Workforce Participation and unemployment rates in Australia for
those people born overseas**

**4.1 Workforce participation and unemployment rate of people from cultural
and linguistic diversity backgrounds**

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Data consistently show recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate than those who have lived in Australia for some years. Several factors influence the unemployment rates of migrant and jobseekers with cultural and linguistic diverse backgrounds (CALD), including the period since arrival in Australia, skill level, age, English language proficiency, and recent and relevant work experience.

The Australian Labour Market Update¹ (published quarterly) and the ABS Labour Market Statistics² provides unemployment rates (original data) for people now resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. In February 2010, people born in the Netherlands and Greece had low unemployment rates (1.4 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively), whereas unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East and Sub-Sahara Africa (14.5 per cent and 76.1 per cent respectively).

¹ see www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Individual/Migrant/AustralianLabourMarketUpdate.htm

² See ABS Labour Market Statistics 6105.0 April 2010 at www.abs.gov.au