



Sydney public hearings for 457 visa

Federal Parliament's Migration Committee will be holding a public hearing in Sydney on 16 and 17 May as part of its inquiry into temporary business visas, including the 457 visa and labour agreements.

The Committee will hear from a diverse range of organisations, including Restaurant and Catering Australia, the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, the Australian Meat Industry Council and the Migration Institute of Australia. The Committee will also hear from organisations representing the engineering, financial, tourism and transport sectors, as well as from some individual 457 visa holders.

Immigration department figures show that New South Wales was the largest user of the 457 visa program for the six months through to December 2006 compared to the other states and territories.

"The use of 457 visas is indicative of the skills shortage facing Australia in key industry sectors. We therefore want to see that the current arrangements for temporary business visas are functioning efficiently," Committee Chairman Don Randall said.

The Committee is examining the adequacy of current eligibility requirements for temporary business visas. It will also look at the effectiveness of compliance arrangements.

Public hearing schedule on 16-17 May

VENUE: NSW Parliament House, Jubilee Room (Level 8), Macquarie Street, Sydney

Wednesday 16 May		Thursday 17 May	
10.00am	Cytech Intersearch Pty Ltd;	9.30am	Australian Meat Industry Council;
10.45am	Restaurant and Catering Australia;	10.15am	Australian Manufacturing Workers Union;
11.15am	Migration Institute of Australia;	11.00am	Australian Financial Markets Association;
12 noon	Assoc. of Consulting Engineers Australia;	11.30am	Philippines-Australia Union Link,
1.30pm	Australian Doctors Trained Overseas;		Immigrant Women's Speakout Assoc.
2.00pm	Liquor, Hospitality and Misc. Union;		& Philippines-Australia Women's Assoc;
2.45pm	Australian Contract Professions	12.10pm	Tourism and Transport Forum Australia
	Management Association;		& Infrastructure Partnerships Australia;
3.15pm	Construction, Forestry, Mining	12.40pm	RT Kinnaird and Associates.
	and Energy Union;		
3.45pm	Individual 457 visa holders.		

This public hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/index.htm> or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or emailing jscm@aph.gov.au.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP, on (02) 6277 2090 (Canberra) or (08) 9390 1211 (electorate office).

For background information, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/457visas/index.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.