Issued: 21 November 2005

Chair – Mr Don Randall MP Deputy – Senator Linda Kirk

Public hearings in Sydney and Melbourne for Overseas Skills Recognition inquiry

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration will be holding public hearings in Sydney and Melbourne this week as part of its inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing.

"The Committee is interested in hearing the views of organisations in Sydney and Melbourne to see if the current processes by which migrants are assessed for entry to Australia under the skilled migration system are functioning efficiently, or need to be improved." Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP said.

The Committee is looking at skills recognition not only for migrants, but also for those who come to Australia outside the skilled migration system, such as temporary residents needing skills assessment and Australian citizens returning to Australia with overseas qualifications.

In addition, the Committee is comparing Australia's overseas skills recognition arrangements with those of other major immigration countries and whether greater consistency in the recognition of qualifications might be achieved among Australian States and Territories.

Public hearing schedule

Sydney

Wednesday, 23 November 2005 Venue: Town Hall Room, Mercure Hotel Sydney, 818-820 George Street	
8.30am	NSW Government (sub 84)
9.30am	The Migrant Employment and Training Taskforce (sub 18)
10.20am	Migrant Network Services (sub 54)
11.00am	The Migration Institute of Australia Ltd (sub 34)
11.40am	Dr Regine Wagner, University of Western Sydney (<i>sub 21</i>)
1.15pm	Australian Dental Association (sub 29)
1.45pm	Restaurant & Catering Australia (sub 41)
2.15pm	Australian Computer Society (sub 61)
2.45pm	CEPU (<i>sub 87</i>)
3.15pm	CFMEU (sub 11)
3.45pm	Adjourn

Melbourne

Thursday, 24 November 2005 Venue: K Room, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne

8.30am Victorian Government

9.30am Vocational Education and Training Assessment Services (VETASSESS) (sub 86)



Issued: 21 November 2005

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION

10.30am	Adult Multicultural Education Services (sub 9)
11.10am	CPA Australia (<i>sub 39</i>)
11.50am	ACTU (sub 56)
1.20pm	Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
2.00pm	Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (sub 89)
2.50pm	Australian Institute of Radiography (sub 8)
3.30pm	Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (sub 15)
4.10pm	Five Star Freight Systems Pty Ltd (sub 73)
4.40pm	Adjourn

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained on the Committee's website at <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/index.htm</u> 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 in his electorate on (08) 9390 1211

For background information, contact the Inquiry Secretary, Kate Tubridy, on (02) 6277 4561 or 0413 086 521