

## **Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency Repeal Bill 2014**

*Portfolio: Industry*

*Introduced: House of Representatives, 4 June 2014*

1.52 The Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency Repeal Bill 2014 (the bill) seeks to repeal the *Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency Act 2008* and abolish the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA).

1.53 The bill is accompanied by a statement of compatibility which states that the bill 'is compatible with human rights and does not raise any human rights issues.'<sup>1</sup>

**1.54 The committee considers that the bill does not appear to give rise to human rights concerns.**

**1.55 However, the committee notes that the function of AWPA is to provide independent advice in relation to Australia's current, emerging and future skills and workforce development needs.<sup>2</sup>**

**1.56 The explanatory memorandum for the bill notes that the abolishing of the AWPA is intended to 'strengthen resources and the capacity of the Department of Industry to provide targeted advice',<sup>3</sup> by incorporating AWPA's functions into the Department of Industry.**

**1.57 The committee notes that, while the purpose of the bill is to streamline portfolio processes and provide for stronger linkages between skills and industry sectors,<sup>4</sup> any consequent reduction in effective advice on Australia's workforce development needs could result in a limitation on the right to work. The committee's assessment assumes that the policy of streamlining and reallocating AWPA's activities will be effective.**

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1 Explanatory memorandum (EM), [p. 3]

2 EM, [p. 2]

3 EM, [p. 2]

4 EM, [p.5]