



457 visa under investigation

Federal Parliament's Migration Committee will be holding a public hearing in Melbourne on 14 March as part of its inquiry into temporary business visas, including the 457 visa and Labour Agreements.

The Committee will hear from the ACTU, the Uniting Church, the Recruitment and Consulting Services Association, Midfield Meat Pty Ltd, Entity Solutions Pty Ltd and the Law Institute of Victoria.

The Committee will also take evidence from the Australian Nursing Federation and the Information Technology Contract and Recruitment Association. Of interest is that registered nurses, computing professionals, and business and information professionals represented the top three occupations for temporary skilled migrants in Australia in 2005-06.

"There has been a lot of discussion about the skills shortage facing Australia and about the 457 visa in particular," Committee Chairman, Don Randall said.

"The number of temporary skilled migrants entering Australia has also been steadily increasing over recent years, with the declining unemployment rate of skilled Australians".

"We therefore want to see if the current arrangements for temporary business visas are functioning efficiently or need to be improved," Mr Randall said.

The Committee is examining the adequacy of current eligibility requirements for temporary business visas. It will also look at the effectiveness of monitoring, enforcement and reporting arrangements.

Public hearing schedule on 14 March 2007

VENUE: Monash Conference Centre, Level 7, 30 Collins St, Melbourne

9.30am	Australian Council of Trade Unions
10.15am	Uniting Church in Australia
11.00am	Recruitment and Consulting Services Association
11.30am	Midfield Meat International Pty Ltd
1.30pm	Australian Nursing Federation
2.00pm	Entity Solutions Pty Ltd
2.30pm	Information Technology Contract and Recruitment Association
3.00pm	Law Institute of Victoria

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.