

Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening Sponsorship and Nomination Processes) Bill 2024

Response to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee | July 2024

AMES Australia (AMES) thanks the Senate for offering the opportunity to provide input to the Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening Sponsorship and Nomination Processes) Bill 2024.

AMES mission and overarching purpose is articulated in our vision of *'full participation for all in a cohesive and diverse society'*, with a focus on the strengths of new arrivals and their aspirations to contribute, maximising the economic and social participation of migrants and, promoting and celebrating the benefits of a multicultural Australia. AMES operational expertise includes Workforce Australia specialist CALD licenses and our social enterprise Settling into Work, which supports professionally and technically qualified migrants into jobs that match their skills. In addition, AMES operates a skilled migration service, which provides immigration and visa application assistance to businesses and individuals.

We understand the intent of this Bill is designed to address, amongst other matters, migrant worker exploitation and misuse of the visa system; seeks to attract exceptional talent to address Australia's skills shortage, and provides clarity and guardrails for income benchmarks, labour market testing to provide greater certainty for both sponsors and workers.

Within this context, the intent of this Bill is relevant to AMES experience in supporting migrant jobseekers, who are not afforded the same opportunity in secure employment and career progression.

AMES has reviewed the Bill and considers the recommendations to be reasonable and appropriate. AMES looks forward to the Bill being passed.