



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY MIGRATION

MEDIA RELEASE

1 September 2021

Temporary Migration report tabled in the Senate

The Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration today presented its report to the Senate.

Tasked with investigating the impact temporary migration has on the Australian economy and labour market, social cohesion and workplace rights and conditions, the Committee has since December 2019 received 131 submissions from individuals and organisations. The report also explores the exploitation of temporary visa holders, considers pathways to permanency and examines improvements to the regulatory framework and policy settings.

The Committee made 40 recommendations for reform aimed at protecting vulnerable temporary visa holders from exploitation, including:

- Significantly increasing the resources provided to the Department of Home Affairs to improve visa application assessment times;
- The abolition of the 88 day farm work requirement of the Working Holiday Maker program;
- Increasing Australia's quarantine capacity for the inclusion of seasonal workers;
- Improving the flexibility of the Seasonal Worker Programme to allow greater engagement of people from the Pacific region and Timor-Leste in agriculture specific work;
- Banning employers who exploit workers from employing temporary visa holders;
- Significantly increasing the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold to restore fairness to Australia's skilled shortage by protecting local workers;
- Providing protections to those temporary visa workers who report exploitation;
- Establishing a small-claims tribunal to resolve wage theft disputes;
- Holding franchisors financially responsible for the underpayment of employees by franchisees;
- Reorganising the Fair Work Ombudsman into the Fair Work Inspectorate, with greater focus and resources on enforcement;
- Authorising unions to conduct audits on businesses suspected of exploiting workers.

The report also recommends a number of measures aimed at improving education and training, the establishment of a National Labour Hire Licensing Scheme, and increased resources for non-government organisations to support migrants integrating into Australian communities.

A copy of the report and more details about the inquiry are available on the committee's [website](#).

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