



Public Hearings in Sydney 30 – 31st March

Independent Contracting and Labour Hire Arrangements – Are they working?

Labour hire companies, unions and business groups are among the 18 witnesses to appear before a House of Representatives committee inquiry into independent contractor arrangements.

The hearings, held in Sydney on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 March, are the first public hearings for the inquiry.

New forms of employment arrangements characterise the Australian workforce of today. Amongst the changes in forms of employment, is a rise in independent contractors and labour hire placements. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation is inquiring into:

- the status and range of independent contracting and labour hire arrangements;
- ways independent contracting can be pursued consistently across state and federal jurisdiction;
- the role of labour hire arrangements in the modern Australian economy; and
- strategies to ensure independent contract arrangements are legitimate.

The Committee Chair, Mr Phillip Barresi, said “Entrepreneurship is an important part of the Australian culture and many Australians choose to work as independent contractors”.

“It’s vital to support that flexibility, but also ensure that proper protections are in place that clarify obligations such as health and safety, tax requirements and other entitlements for both contractors and those employed through labour hire services,” Mr Barresi said.

“The House Employment Committee includes both government and opposition members from most states and territories. We will be working together cooperatively to assess and make recommendations on these employment arrangements.”

The inquiry was referred by the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. The committee anticipates reporting early in the second half of the year.

Further details on the inquiry, including the complete terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au

The program of witnesses for the two day hearings are attached.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, on (03) 9873 8351

For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162

**House of Representatives Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce
Participation Committee**

Inquiry into Independent Contractors and Labour Hire Placements

Public Hearing Program:

Venue: 8th Floor Conference Room,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices,
70 Phillip Street
SYDNEY

Wednesday 30 March 2005

11.00 Australian Industry Group
11.45 Roofing Tile Association
12.15 Ross Human Directions

12.45 pm Lunch break

1.30 Unions NSW
2.15 CFMEU - Construction & General Division
2.45 CFMEU – Mining & Energy Division – Northern District Branch
3.30 TWU - NSW
4.00 Australian Rail, Tram and Bus Union

Thursday 31 March 2005

9.00 am Restaurant and Catering Australia
9.45 Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators
10.30 Manpower Services (Australia)
11.30 Direct Selling Association
12.00 Courier and Taxi Truck Association

12.30 pm Lunch break

1.30 Australian Lawyers Alliance
2.00 Media & Entertainment Alliance
2.30 Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
3.15 IR Australia