



# Commonwealth departments to answer questions on overseas skills

Key Commonwealth departments will appear before the Migration Committee in a public hearing in Canberra on 27 March as part of its inquiry into overseas skills recognition.

The Committee will hear from the departments of immigration, education and workplace relations.

“We want to see if the current processes for overseas skill recognition, as administered by these Commonwealth departments, are functioning efficiently, or need to be improved,” Committee Chairman Don Randall said.

“The Committee is also examining how these processes are communicated to potential migrants. We are particularly interested in how bodies such as Trades Recognition Australia, which is part of the workplace relations department, assess migrants for entry to Australia under the skilled migration system and communicate with their clients.”

The Committee is looking at skills recognition not only for migrants but also for those who come to Australia outside the skilled migration system, such as temporary residents needing skills assessment and Australian citizens returning to Australia with overseas qualifications.

In addition, the Committee is comparing Australia’s overseas skills recognition arrangements with those of other major immigration countries and looking at whether greater consistency in the recognition of qualifications might be achieved among Australian states and territories.

## Public hearing schedule on 27 March 2006

**VENUE: Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra**

**9.00am Department of Employment and Workplace Relations**

**10.00am Department of Education, Science and Training**

**10.30am Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs**

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](mailto:jscm@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment**, Please contact the Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP on (02) 6277 2090 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (08) 9390 1211

**For background information**, contact the Inquiry Secretary, Kate Sullivan, on (02) 6277 4561.