



**Joint Standing Committee on Migration**

**Chair: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP**

**Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

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## **Australia's Indian diaspora boosts bilateral trade and investment flows**

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration will discuss the role of Australia's Indian communities in promoting bilateral trade and business relations with the Australian Indian Business Council at a public hearing tomorrow in Canberra.

Committee chair Maria Vamvakinou said that Australia's Indian community plays a key part in establishing trade and investment flows between both countries.

"Australia's Indian communities continue to play a fundamental role in promoting bilateral trade and business relations by providing a wealth of local knowledge on customs, procedures and market analysis. This valuable knowledge provides Australian businesses with abundant opportunities in a wide range of industries," Ms Vamvakinou said.

"Many business relationships are established through informal networks, networks that link up a diverse range of individuals and businesses from around the globe. In providing a forum for discussion between Australian and Indian businesses, the Australian India Business Council is but one example of how we can utilise these potential business links, and hopefully establish long-term business relationships."

The Federal member for Calwell said that the role of the Indian diaspora in Australia's bilateral trade and investment is a reflection of one of the many benefits stemming from a multicultural society.

"The successful integration of the Indian diaspora into the wider Australian community has contributed significantly to deepening our trade relationship with India. We have a large Indian student population and continue to welcome skilled Indian migrants into various Australian industries."

"Australia's India community is but one example of the positive effect multiculturalism continues to have on Australian society."

The inquiry is investigating whether Australia is fully utilising the benefits of diversity in growing Australia's trade and investment.

Audio of proceedings in Committee Room 1R4 on 8 February will be webcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Full program and other information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website [www.aph.gov.au/mig](http://www.aph.gov.au/mig) or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 4560

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