



Public Hearing – Monday 5 September 2005 - Canberra

Commonwealth agencies to be quizzed on recognising overseas skills

Key Commonwealth agencies, including the immigration, employment and foreign affairs departments, will be appearing before federal parliament's Migration Committee on Monday 5 September 2005 to discuss Australia's current arrangements for recognising overseas skills.

"There has been a lot of discussion recently about the skills shortage facing Australia. We want to see if the current processes by which migrants are assessed for entry to Australia under the skilled migration system are functioning efficiently, or need to be improved." Committee Chairman, Mr Don Randall MP said.

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 whether greater consistency in the recognition of qualifications might be achieved among Australian States and Territories.

The public hearing will be held in Parliament House, Committee Room 1S3, from 9:00am – 12:15pm

9:00am	DIMIA (sub no. 80)
10:15am	DFAT (sub no. 71)
11:00am	DEWR (sub no. 63)
12:15pm	<i>Close of public hearing</i>

For the full terms of reference and for more information, including copies of submissions, visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig or phone the Migration Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or email jscm@aph.gov.au.

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

For background information, please contact the Inquiry Secretary, Ms Paola Cerrato-D'Amico on (02) 6277 4561.