



Public hearing

Employment in the tourism sector

Skills and labour shortages, use of migrant labour and career opportunities in the tourism industry will be among the issues discussed at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Employment Committee's public hearing in Sydney this week.

The Committee will hear from employer groups, unions and research organisations at the hearing on Friday, 30 March as part of its inquiry into employment in the tourism sector. Among the witnesses will be the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC). In its submission to the inquiry (No. 34) the SATC notes issues that are widespread in the industry, namely an increasing demand for skills and labour and the need to develop career pathways to attract and retain quality workers.

On the inquiry, Committee Chair, Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, commented, "The tourism sector is of vital importance to Australia's economy and to promoting Australia on the world stage."

"The incorrect perception that the tourism sector does not provide long-term, satisfying career prospects is a serious impediment to its future employment growth. This inquiry has been examining how best to support continued employment growth in the industry and ensure Australia remains a top tourist destination."

The Committee is to inquire into and report on workforce challenges in the Australian tourism sector, with particular reference to the following:

- Current and future employment trends in the industry;
- Current and emerging skill shortages and appropriate recruitment, coordinated training and retention strategies;
- Labour shortages and strategies to meet seasonal fluctuations in workforce demands;
- Strategies to ensure employment in regional and remote areas; and
- Innovative workplace measures to support further employment opportunities and business growth in the tourism sector.

Public hearing program: Friday, 30 March 2007

Time: 9.30am – 4.15pm
Venue: Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Level 8, 70 Phillip St, Sydney

Details of witnesses follow.

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

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, on (02) 6277 4585 or (07) 3344 2622

For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337



Public hearing program

9.30am	Hostec (Submission No. 7)
10.00am	Professor Hans Westerbeek, LaTrobe University (Submission No. 5)
10.45am	Hotel and Motel Accommodation Association (Submission No. 64)
11.15am	Service Skills Australia (Submission No. 32)
11.45am	Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union (Submission No. 10)
1.30pm	South Australian Tourism Commission (Submission No. 34)
2.15pm	Maritime Union of Australia (Submission No. 28)
3.15pm	Australian Services Union (Submission No. 40)
3.45pm	Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (Submission No. 44)