



## Brisbane public hearing for 457 visa inquiry

Federal Parliament's Migration Committee will be holding a public hearing in Brisbane on Monday 16 April as part of its inquiry into temporary business visas, including the 457 visa and Labour Agreements.

The Committee will hear from Commerce Queensland, Growcom and the Communications Electrical Plumbing Union.

The Committee will also take evidence from the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union and Australia Meat Holdings Pty Ltd. In February 2007, the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments finalised a Labour Agreement for the entry of skilled meat workers to Queensland.

Immigration department figures show that Queensland was the third largest user of the 457 visa program for the six months through to December 2006 compared to the other states and territories.

"Strong economic growth in Australia, including Queensland, has led to skills shortages in key industry sectors," Committee Chairman, Don Randall said.

"Australia's temporary skilled migration 457 visas are playing an important role in attracting people with the skills Australia needs."

The Committee is examining the adequacy of current eligibility requirements for temporary business visas. It will also look at the effectiveness of monitoring, enforcement and reporting arrangements.

### Public hearing schedule on 16 April 2007

**VENUE: Commonwealth Offices, 36th Floor, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane**

9.30 am	Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union
10.15 am	Growcom
11.00 am	Communications Electrical Plumbing Union
11.45 am	Private individual
1.15 pm	Commerce Queensland
2.00pm	Australia Meat Holdings Pty Ltd

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 (08) 9390 1211 (electorate office).

For background information, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/457visas/index.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.