



Commonwealth departments and industry groups attend 457 visa inquiry

Federal parliament's Migration Committee will be holding a public hearing in Canberra on Friday 1 June as part of its inquiry into temporary business visas, including the 457 visa and labour agreements.

The joint committee will hear from the Commonwealth departments of immigration, employment and workplace relations, and education.

"There has been plenty of discussion about the skills shortage facing Australia and the 457 visa in particular," committee chairman Don Randall said.

"We want to find out from these departments whether the current arrangements for temporary business visas are functioning efficiently or need to be improved."

The committee will also take evidence from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Industry Group and the National Farmers Federation, along with the Australian Medical Association, Engineers Australia, and the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia. Multinational immigration consultancy Fragomen Australia and various academic groups will also appear before the committee.

The committee is examining the adequacy of current eligibility requirements for temporary business visas. It will also look at the effectiveness of compliance arrangements.

Public hearing schedule on 1 June 2007 – webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

VENUE: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

9.00 am	Australian Industry Group
9.30 am	Fragomen Australia
10.00 am	Engineers Australia and Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia
10.45 am	National Farmers Federation
11.15 am	Dr Khoo and Professor McDonald, Australian National University
11.55 am	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1.30 pm	Australian Medical Association
2.00 pm	Dr Wise and Dr Velayutham, Macquarie University
2.45 pm	Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, and Department of Education and Training

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.

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.