

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration****Chair: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP****Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP**

Multiculturalism and migration law

In some Australian jurisdictions, state law underpins government commitments to support cultural diversity and to ensure full social participation of migrant communities. However, when it comes to social inclusion, is there a good fit between these laws and the federal framework of legislation governing migration?

Parliament's Joint Committee on Migration will discuss this question with the Australian National University's Migration Law Program Legal Workshop at its next public hearing in Canberra this Wednesday 24 August 2011.

The Migration Law Program's Legal Workshop has a research focus on the practical operation of Australia's migration law and its administration. The Law Program also delivers training for qualification and professional development courses to registered Migration Agents.

Committee Chair Maria Vamvakinou advised: "The Migration Law Program's submission maintains that genuine social inclusion requires just and consistent decision-making for all visa applicants, whether they are humanitarian entrants or skilled migrants seeking to fill professional jobs in a skill shortage".

"At its next hearing, the Committee will investigate to what extent successful multiculturalism is affected by the administration of migration law, and whether social attitudes are also inflected by those processes," Ms Vamvakinou said.

The submission was authored by the Sub-Dean of the Migration Law Program, Ms Marianne Dickie, and former Senator and now Research Fellow Mr Andrew Bartlett, both participants in the Legal Workshop.

The Committee's public hearing will commence at **10.45 am in Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.**

Proceedings will be audio broadcast on <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

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