



Public hearing

Indigenous businesses promoting tourism employment

The House of Representatives Employment Committee will hear from Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) at a public hearing in Canberra this week. The hearing on Thursday, 12 October will be the first for the Committee's new inquiry into employment in the tourism sector.

Indigenous businesses supported by IBA provide employment for nearly 500 people in remote and regional areas of Australia. Indigenous cultural experiences form an important part of the tourism sector and the provision of tourism services has the potential to provide economic pathways for Indigenous communities. However, IBA tourism businesses are facing the same labour shortages as the wider industry.

On the inquiry, the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, commented, "Given the economic importance of the sector (especially for employment in regional areas), and campaigns to attract more tourists to Australia, as well as Government strategies to boost the tourism industry, we must ensure that we have a workforce that is ready and able to grow with the sector."

"The tourism industry faces particular challenges with some skill shortages, at times more isolated work locations, and often a transient and seasonal workforce," Mr Barresi said. "This inquiry will examine how best to support continued employment growth in the industry and ensure Australia stays on the tourist map."

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.

Time: 11.00am
Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra
Witness: Indigenous Business Australia

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, Phil Barresi, on (02) 6277 4350 or (03) 9873 8351
For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162