



MAKING THE GRADE? Assessing Overseas Skills

Federal Parliament's Migration Committee wants to hear the community's views on the current system of assessing the skills of people wishing to migrate to Australia under the skilled migration system.

The Chairman of the Committee, Don Randall MP, today announced an inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing.

"The Committee wants to see if the current arrangements for overseas skills recognition, licensing and registration are working as well as they might," Mr Randall said.

"There has been a lot of discussion recently about the skills shortage facing Australia. We want to see if the current processes by which migrants are assessed for entry to Australia under the skilled migration system are functioning efficiently, or need to be improved.

"We have been asked to look at skills recognition, not only for migrants, but also for those who come to Australia outside the skilled migration system, such as temporary residents needing skills assessment and Australian citizens returning to Australia with overseas qualifications."

In referring this matter, the Minister for Immigration, Senator Amanda Vanstone, has asked the Committee to examine a number of areas including whether greater consistency in the recognition of qualifications might be achieved among the States and Territories and any alternative approaches to skills assessment and recognition of overseas qualifications. Other issues may also arise in the course of the inquiry.

"We have also been asked to compare Australia's arrangements with other immigration countries," Mr Randall said.

"The Committee is particularly interested to hear from employers along with skills stream migrants and their families about how the system can be improved."

Members of the public will be able to make submissions in writing to the Committee until 24 June and attend public hearings, which will be held from July.

For interview:

Please contact the Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP on (02) 6277 2090 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (08) 9390 1211.

For background information, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions when they become available, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/reports.htm