



## Public Hearings in Perth 20 May

# Independent Contracting and Labour Hire Arrangements What's happening in WA?

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA, UnionsWA and a labour hire company are to appear before a House of Representatives committee inquiry into independent contracting and labour hire arrangements.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA supports the Australian Government's proposal to protect the rights of independent contractors in legislation, and the overriding of state legislation of deeming certain workers to be employees. Tricord Personnel is one labour hire company that has been in the courts involving a decision on whether workers were independent contractors or employees. This decision then has implications for unfair dismissal claims and other workplace legislation.

The Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, said the growth in labour hire has provided many organisations with greater flexibility in meeting work demands.

"Concerns regarding occupational health and safety, and skills development require the Committee to look closely at the responsibilities of labour hire agencies, client organisations and the workers involved," Mr Barresi said.

"Strong defence of independent contracting arrangements has been provided to the Committee as a beneficial work and lifestyle choice. However, claims that workers are being pressured to convert to such arrangements need to be investigated," Mr Barresi said.

The hearing in Perth on **Friday 20 May 9:00 am to 12: 30 pm** is the final interstate hearing for the Committee.

**Venue:** Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices  
Level 39 Conference Room, Exchange Plaza  
2 The Esplanade

**Program:** 9:00 am Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia  
10:45 am Tricord Personnel  
11:30 am UnionsWA

The inquiry was referred by Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Kevin Andrews. The Committee anticipates reporting mid year.

Further details on the inquiry, including the complete terms of reference, membership of the Committee, submissions received and previous transcripts can be obtained on the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp](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](mailto:ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au)

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi, on (03) 9873 8351

**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337