



Overseas Skills Recognition inquiry holding public hearing in Brisbane

Federal parliament's Migration Committee will be holding a public hearing in Brisbane on 9 March as part of its inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing.

The Committee will hear from Global Recognition Agency Ltd, the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia, the Multicultural Development Association, the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and Migrant Settlement Services. The Committee will also take evidence from the Queensland state government.

"There has been a lot of discussion recently about the skills shortage facing Australia," Committee Chairman Don Randall said.

"The Committee is interested in hearing from organisations in Queensland 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."

The Committee is looking 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 addition, the Committee is comparing Australia's overseas skills recognition arrangements with those of other major immigration countries and looking at whether greater consistency in the recognition of qualifications might be achieved among Australian states and territories.

Public hearing schedule on 9 March 2006

VENUE: Commonwealth Offices, 36th floor Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane

9.30am	Global Recognition Agency Ltd
10.15am	Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia Inc
11.15am	Multicultural Development Association and Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland
12.00pm	Migrant Settlement Services
1.30pm	Queensland state government

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 in his electorate on (08) 9390 1211

For background information, contact the Inquiry Secretary, Kate Sullivan, on (02) 6277 4561 or mobile 0413 086 521.

