



Appendix D: Conducting the review

Following the Minister's request that the Committee review skilled labour entry programs, the Committee sought submissions on "How can Australia attract skilled migrants?" through advertising in the *Financial Review* on 29 June 2002. The review was also highlighted in the regular *What's happening at your house?* advertisements in the *Australian* on 3 July and 7 August 2002, and again under *Parliamentary Committees launch new investigations* in the *Australian* on 21 August 2002.

More generally, the review was mentioned in "Hot Property: the global market for skill" in *About the House*: November/December 2002, and in "Regional skills shortages: an overview of demographic, economic and social influences" in *Sustaining Regions*, October 2003.

The Committee wrote to all State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers and to relevant Federal Ministers seeking their contribution to the review.

In addition the Committee wrote to a range of stakeholders inviting comments:

- 7 industry/business groups
- 56 Area Consultative Committees
- 23 Regional Development Councils
- 46 unions
- 14 employer associations
- 19 skill recognition bodies
- 11 organisations with interests in working holiday makers

- 36 people or organisations who had previously contributed to the Committee's 2001 review of State-specific migration mechanisms
- Federal, State and Territory Medical Councils/Boards

The Committee directly sought out non-metropolitan comment on 17 October 2002 when it faxed 447 municipal and shire councils, inviting submissions under the heading *Finding skilled migrants – can you get the skilled workers you need? What's stopping you?* A number of councils were also e-mailed a similar invitation under the heading *Have Your Say*.

The Committee also wrote to, or e-mailed, 40 individuals or organisations whose reported comments on migration and/or employment issues in the media indicated that they might have experience of relevance to the Committee's review.

To cover the migration programs of the countries mentioned in the terms of reference the Committee sought information and/or briefings from the appropriate consulates and embassies. The Committee broadened its perspective on overseas migration practices through research in the relevant Government agency websites, academic publications, and migration-oriented websites.

In preparation for the round table discussion held on 3 November 2003, the Committee circulated an *Issues Paper*, inviting comment. The 120 recipients of the paper comprised existing contributors to the review, including the State and Territory Governments and Federal Government departments; skill recognition bodies; academics in relevant fields; and a number of peak organisations.

Overall, the Committee received 68 submissions and supplementary submissions from 58 individuals or organisations. It took evidence from 52 people representing 18 organisations at eight public hearings in Canberra, Adelaide and Sydney (as listed in Appendix B) and inspected the Skills Processing Centre in Adelaide on 20 February 2003.