



# Mining and local government groups attend overseas skills inquiry

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy and the WA Local Government Association and Local Government Managers Australia will appear before the Federal parliament's Migration Committee at a public hearing in Perth on 20 April as part of its inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing.

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

"There are significant challenges facing the mining sector and local government authorities in WA in attracting skilled workers. The Committee is interested in discussing how the system of recognising overseas qualifications might be improved to help address these difficulties".

The Committee will also hear from the WA Department of Health and Department of Education and Training, as well as private individuals.

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 20 April 2006

### VENUE: Commonwealth Offices, Perth

9.45 am	Private individuals
10.45 am	Department of Health, WA
11.45 am	Chamber of Minerals and Energy, WA
1.30 pm	WA Local Government Association Local Government Managers Australia, WA
2.15 pm	Department of Education and Training, WA

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](mailto: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 on (02) 6277 4561 or mobile 0413 086 521.