



2 April 2007

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BY: MIG

*JJ* Ms Joanne Towner  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Towner

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) welcomes this opportunity to inform the Committee of the business community's views on the temporary business visa program.

In this regard, please find attached the lead article from our house journal, ACCI Review, dated November 2006, which sets out our views on this important visa program.

Commerce and industry regards the 457 visa program as generally working well, with few changes needed (and then only at the margin).

The ACCI would underscore the essential point that Australia needs a more competitive, efficient and welcoming – but still well managed – migration program, not one made more complex in reaction to heated political debate.

The challenge for the Australian Government, and for commerce and industry, is to win in the global battle for talent by lifting our competitiveness as a destination of first choice for skilled labour.

The ACCI shares Mr Randall's comments when announcing this inquiry:

*"Australia's temporary skilled migration 457 visas are playing an important role in attracting people with the skills Australia needs. [...] Temporary skilled migrants are vital to Australia's ongoing prosperity."*

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The 457 visa program is critical to addressing Australia's already serious skills shortages – which will only be compounded if governments introduce unnecessary bureaucracy and congestion into the skilled migration processing system.

Should the Committee have any questions regarding any of the matters addressed in this submission, or wish to discuss any issues not addressed herein relating to the current review or migration policy and programs more generally, ~~please do not~~ hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brent Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Brent Davis  
Director, Trade and International Affairs