

# Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education  
References Committee

## **Inquiry into Pacific region seasonal contract labour**

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**Submission no:** 37

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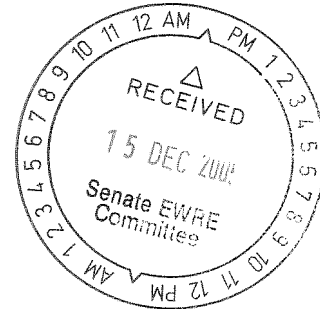
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## Seminara, Dijana (SEN)

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**From:** Michael Quinlan [m.quinlan@unsw.edu.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 December 2005 10:31 AM  
**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Seasonal and Contract Labour



Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to make a brief submission with regard to this inquiry.

I believe the introduction of seasonal or contract workers raises a number of serious issues and could prove to be highly problematic for the following reasons:

1. It would be difficult to manage the entry and exit of such workers given that disparities in living standards provide a strong incentive for overstaying.
2. Short entry workers is an undesirable practice, especially with regard to lower skilled workers. There are alternative sources of such labour in Australia (such as older workers and those in areas of high unemployment such as the south west corridor in Sydney).
3. Such workers would be highly vulnerable to exploitation (in terms of their industrial entitlements, protecting their occupational health and safety and obtaining workers' compensation when injured).

I believe there is enough evidence to indicate these problems are already occurring in relation to short term arrivals and illegal immigrants in Australia (the level of short term arrivals is linked to illegal work practices). I have just published a paper (with Rob Guthrie) exploring these issues and indicating the evidence based on past experience. I will forward you an electronic version of this paper via Trevor Anderson (the copy editor of the journal).

Regards

Michael Quinlan

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