

MEDIA RELEASE

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457 Visa deaths a tragedy

The peak body for the migration advice profession has expressed its sorrow at the deaths of overseas workers brought to Australia under the 457 Visa program.

The president of the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA), Arnold Conyer, says the deaths are a tragedy and expressed his condolences to the families and friends of the dead workers.

“We are obviously appalled at the death of any worker, be they from Australia or overseas,” Mr Conyer said.

He said the 457 Visa is a valuable tool for business to help meet skills shortages in Australia and in building the nation’s economy.

“While the vast majority of employers using the visa are doing the right thing, we have previously called on the government to allocate more resources to compliance and enforcement to deal with the few that exploit migrant workers.”

“We have also put in place a scheme whereby workers brought into Australia under 457 Visas who are having problems with their employers can get free advice from Registered Migration Agents who are MIA members.”

“We have available a panel of members who will provide the service with the support of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Department of Immigration.”

“Our members will be able to help resolve a skilled worker’s visa status and work with unions, the Department and lawyers to recover entitlements from employers,” Mr Conyer said.

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