

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

17 June 2011

Attention: News Editor

Skilled migrant scheme explained

Great Southern employers and community agencies attended a breakfast forum on Wednesday 8 June to learn about the potential to use sponsored migration to manage skills shortages.

Officers from Federal and State Government agencies attended the forum to explain policies and

procedures for filling job vacancies with skilled immigrants.

The forum was managed by the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), which is a certifying body for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

GSDC Regional Manager Industry and Infrastructure Russell Pritchard outlined the agency's role and the factors driving skilled migration and development in the Great Southern.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship Regional Outreach Officer Steve Lanyi talked about the aims and function of the skilled migration program, and the agency's renewed focus on securing permanent residents in regional areas.

Manager of Workforce Development and Skilled Migration Paul Gale gave attendees an overview of the WA Department of Training and Workforce Development's plans for suitably qualified migrants in the Skilling WA strategy.



Information about skilled migration was presented at the breakfast forum by GSDC representative Russell Pritchard (left), Department of Immigration and Citizenship officer Steve Lanyi and Department of Training and Workforce Development representative Paul Gale.



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GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the forum provided a valuable service to employers who were unable to find staff with particular skills within the Australian workforce.

“Our role as a certifying body for the sponsored migration scheme is to support employers in the region who want to employ people from overseas to fill existing skill shortages,” Mr Manning said.

“GSDC officers in Albany and Katanning are available to handle enquiries about accessing the scheme when vacancies cannot be filled from within the Australian workforce.

“Enquiries about general migration issues must be directed to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship but Great Southern employers are welcome to talk to the Commission about meeting needs for skilled staff,” Mr Manning said.

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