

Press Release: 20 December 2004

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS REGISTRATION OF LABOUR HIRE COMPANIES.

A registration system for labour hire companies would help lift occupational health and safety standards in the industry, according to a report released today by the Victorian Parliament's all-party Economic Development Committee.

The proposed registration system would be linked to a Labour Hire Code of Practice that would set out OHS standards for risk assessment, workplace induction and safety equipment. The registration system and Code would be managed by the Victorian WorkCover Authority.

Committee Chairman, Labor Member for Mitcham, Tony Robinson, said the interim report was focussed mainly on occupational health and safety issues as this was undoubtedly the most serious issue confronting the industry.

“On all the evidence available to the Committee the labour hire industry is characterised by an unacceptably high injury rate and the recommendations proposed in the interim report are a means of tackling this.”

In total, the Committee has made 16 recommendations which will now be considered by the State Government.

Mr Robinson said the Committee had been granted an extension to allow a final report to be produced by May 31, 2005 , which would focus on a range of other issues affecting labour hire employment.

For further information contact:

Tony Robinson MP, the Committee's Chairman, on 9625 1184 or

Russell Solomon, the Committee's Executive Officer, on 9651 3590 or mobile 0418 513 66