



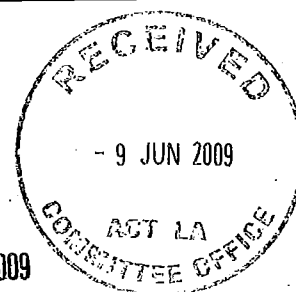
Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Mr Zed Seselja MLA
Chair, Select Committee on Estimates 2009-10
ACT Legislative Assembly Building
London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601



Dear Mr Seselja

I wish to provide a clarification to information provided at the Public Accounts Committee sitting on 20 May.

During this hearing, the Executive Director, Arts, Communications, Events and Protocol (CSEP) stated 'we are not planning to do any international programs in the next 12 months'. This statement was made in response to a question about the *Live in Canberra* Program specifically, and does not apply to the Skilled and Business Migration Program, which is a separate program.

Below is the Hansard excerpt from Estimates sitting 20 May 2009, relating to the comment for clarification:

MS BURCH: *On the live in Canberra, how active is it and what are the plans for that over the next 12 months, with the change in global circumstances?*

Ms Cartwright: *Understandably, there is a change in global circumstances. We are maintaining the program. We are still working very strongly with Canberra businesses, who are indicating that there are still skill shortages in Canberra and they are very keen to see people moving to Canberra. But we are also very mindful that there is a changed environment out there and that some Canberra people may feel that bringing people to Canberra either from interstate or internationally may be taking their jobs. So we are not planning to do any international programs in the next 12 months. We have been to South Africa recently, a couple of months ago, but we are not going to any international workshops and shows in the next six months.*

I recently gave approval for two officers from Skilled and Business Migration Program (part of the Business and Projects Division of my Department) to participate in skilled migration expos in the United Kingdom in June 2009.

The expos are an important vehicle to engage directly with qualified and motivated potential migrants and also migration agents. The ACT Government's involvement will target skilled professionals, in particular health professionals.

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There are important differences in approach between *Live in Canberra* and the Skilled and Business Migration Program. The latter operates as a Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) recognised Regional Certifying Body (RCB) whose function is to facilitate various visa class applications within a state-based framework of formal skills in demand assessment.

Live in Canberra is a broad marketing campaign that was developed originally to communicate the benefits of living and working in Canberra to a general audience of skilled workers.

Live in Canberra officers are not expected to attend any overseas recruitment expos for the next 12 months.

The *Live in Canberra* Program has a high level of support from the Canberra business community and will continue to provide assistance by responding to general overseas enquiries; and by providing marketing support to local businesses and government departments who continue to actively recruit overseas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Stanhope', written in a cursive style.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

- 9 JUN 2009