

RCSA calls for national response to ‘rub out’ sham and unscrupulous labour-hire companies

RCSA preparing to announce Prescribed Industry Code

May 5, 2015: The Recruitment and Consulting Services Association (RCSA), the leading industry body for the employment services sector in Australia and New Zealand, has called for a coordinated national response to clean-up sham and unscrupulous labour-hire companies that are breaking the law and exploiting migrant workers in unlawful labour contracting arrangements.

“Recent television reports have turned a much-needed light on the seedy labour-hire companies that exploit migrant workers,” said RCSA President Robert van Stokrom FRCSA. “These dodgy operators are a small handful of firms and they need to be rubbed out,” said van Stokrom.

“The RCSA is calling for a national response to clean up sham and unscrupulous labour-hire companies. This response should take a long-term and coordinated national view that avoids piecemeal state-based approaches that might run the risk of pursuing too narrow an agenda,” said van Stokrom.

The RCSA President believes a coordinated national response should focus on putting in place with employers, on-hire providers and Governments, best practice work environments that protect the rights and welfare of workers.

“It is important to not look solely to a regulatory regime that focuses on labour-hire restriction and enforcement, which would be a step backwards for business and on-hire companies in Victoria,” said van Stokrom.

The RCSA will next month release for discussion an exposure draft of its proposed Prescribed Industry Code (PIC) which the association will seek to have put in place under Commonwealth regulations.

The Prescribed Industry Code has been developed by the RCSA to help regulate standards of business conduct in the employment services industry and to build and sustain trust in that industry, says van Stokrom. “A PIC will ensure transparency and certainty in commercial transactions in the employment services industry and minimise disputes arising from a lack of certainty in respect of the commercial terms agreed between parties.”

RCSA has met with Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallis MP, and the Victorian Minister for Industrial Relations, Natalie Hutchins MP prior to the state election to discuss the actions of a small number of unscrupulous companies that masquerade as 'labour-hire' companies.

"We discussed the role of the RCSA Code for Professional Conduct in guiding the ethical and legal practices of RCSA member on-hire agencies, and we believe the PIC and a coordinated national response will address the issues identified by the Victorian Government in their call for an inquiry into labour exploitation," said van Stokrom.

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About RCSA

The Recruitment and Consulting Services Association (RCSA) is the leading industry body for the employment services sector in Australia and New Zealand. With over 3,000 corporate and individual Members, the Association sets professional standards, conducts research, educates and develops members' skills, monitors industry development and lobbies governments on issues directly affecting members.

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