

WARNING: To companies who employ temporary 457 overseas workers, over local workers

“Recently the Minister for Immigration, Senator Chris Evans issued a message warning employers in the meat industry about employing temporary 457 visa workers from overseas at the expense of local workers. We are now hearing reports that it’s happening in the construction industry. Let me make it clear, this will not be tolerated by our union and our members, we will pursue appropriate actions to punish those employers who rort the system, to protect jobs for local workers.”

Kevin Reynolds
CFMEU WA State Secretary



We have no problems with people who have permanent residency or have immigrated to call Australia home. Our union and the construction industry were built on the hard work and sweat of workers who immigrated to Australia. However temporary, 4 year visa workers are another thing entirely.

If you’re in the construction industry and have been told there is no work, only to discover the job has been given to temporary visa workers we want to know about it.

The CFMEU in WA will leave no stone unturned to take action to expose those employers found to be knocking back employment opportunities for local workers and then employing imported temporary workers to do the same job.

We will seek to have the rights of those companies to access 457 temporary workers revoked. We will also take other appropriate actions and name and shame those employers.

We have set up a special ‘Action Hotline’ to take reports from construction workers genuinely affected by the Government’s 457 temporary visa program.

ABOLISH E.R.M.S

More local labour can be sourced by abolishing the insidious E.R.M.S list, we are working to have this abolished. We believe this is used as a victimisation tool to unfairly black ban workers. If you feel you have been victimised by E.R.M.S, contact our action hotline.

WHAT THE MINISTER SAYS:

“We want to send a clear message to employers that the temporary skilled migration scheme is not to be used to employ foreign workers over local people,” Senator Evans said.

“Any employers found to be in breach of the conditions of the meat industry labour agreement can be denied further access to Subclass 457 visas,” Senator Evans said.”



Media release

Senator Chris Evans
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

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Meat industry employers warned over foreign labour

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, says the Rudd Government will not tolerate employers continuing to access foreign workers on temporary skilled migration (Subclass 457) visas while denying local workers job opportunities.

Senator Evans issued the warning after concerns were raised that local workers were being denied shifts at a meatworks in Dinmore, Queensland.

“We want to send a clear message to employers that the temporary skilled migration scheme is not to be used to employ foreign workers over local people,” Senator Evans said.

“The Subclass 457 visa scheme is a skilled migration program designed to assist employers to meet skills shortages when local workers cannot be sourced.

“If an employer has local skilled people willing to work more shifts than clearly, they do not have a shortage of skills.”

Department of Immigration officials are scheduled to hold talks with the employer, Swift Australia, in Dinmore tomorrow (Tuesday) to ensure company is not denying local workers employment opportunities while seeking to access more overseas workers.

Senator Evans said that Swift Australia must abide by the conditions of the meat industry labour agreement which enables companies to employ foreign workers on Subclass 457 visas. Employers must also provide evidence that they continue to exhaust domestic labour opportunities in order to access skilled overseas workers.

“A condition for access to a meat industry labour agreement is that Australian workers are not displaced or replaced with overseas temporary workers,” Senator Evans said.

Labour agreement holders such as Swift Australia must also have an effective plan which will, over the term of the agreement, reduce their reliance upon temporary overseas workers, and increase training and employment of Australians.

“Any employers found to be in breach of the conditions of the meat industry labour agreement can be denied further access to Subclass 457 visas,” Senator Evans said.

“We are committed to a strong temporary skilled migration program but need to ensure the integrity of the system.

“We also need to ensure we continue to provide employment and training opportunities for Australian workers.”

CALL OUR ACTION HOTLINE: FREECALL 1800 622 055

We’re leading the fight! Call our ‘Action Hotline’ to register and discuss your complaint, you can also write to us with your story, stating your name and contact details:

Email to 457erms@cfmeuwa.com or post to 457 ERMS, CFMEU WA, 82 Royal Street, East Perth, WA 6004.