



Settlement
Council
of Australia

13 August 2021

RE: Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Migration Amendment (Protecting Migrant Workers) Bill 2021

To whom it may concern,

The Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA) wishes to congratulate the government on the Exposure Draft of the Migration Amendment (Protecting Migrant Workers) Bill 2021.

SCoA is the peak body promoting good settlement outcomes for migrants and refugees across Australia. We are committed to building an Australia where everyone belongs, together with our membership which is over 100 members strong and counting. We are a trusted source of policy advice, and a thought leader on enhancing the economic and social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

While SCoA recognises that most employers treat their employees fairly, issues of worker exploitation are commonly reported by our member organisations. The impacts of this are significant. In the immediate-term, these practices can plunge migrant workers into poverty, negatively impact their health and wellbeing, and lead to poor outcomes for their children. In the long term, many who initially arrive in Australia as temporary migrants go on to become citizens and the initial experiences of life in Australia have a lasting impact on perceptions of belonging.

In responding to commonly reported issues of migrant worker exploitation, the Bill makes an important contribution to enhancing the wellbeing of migrants and refugees, and promoting good social cohesion outcomes.

Once again, I wish to convey my congratulations on addressing this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Elhelw Wright'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sandra Elhelw Wright
Chief Executive Officer