

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS

“The *Four Corners* investigation into unscrupulous labour hire contractors exploiting workers on farms and in factories is a timely reminder that more has to be done to protect overseas workers from exploitation,” said Ms Angela Chan, National President of the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA).

People who hold temporary visas, such as Work and Holiday Makers are often particularly vulnerable.

“Unlike Subclass 457 visa holders, whose sponsoring employers are subject to strict obligations and monitoring to prevent exploitation, these people have no such protection” said Ms Chan.

“The changes announced last Friday, to strengthen the integrity of the Working Holiday Visa program, are changes which are largely designed to prevent the exploitation of those seeking a second Working Holiday Visa. Unfortunately, they do not address the requirement for Australian employers who employ subclass 417 visa holders to guarantee fair work and pay conditions which all workers are entitled to receive” said Ms Chan.

Ms Chan said that there needs to be a system of monitoring the working conditions of people employed under the subclass 417 visas and not just when they are applying for a second visa.

“The role of unsponsored temporary visas holders in the Australian economy, and their potential for real exploitation, is one of the matters which should be examined by the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into Australia’s migrant intake”, said Ms Chan.

If people believe they are being exploited at work then they should contact the Fairwork Ombudsman who is located in every state and territory and who has the power to investigate these claims. Complaints can be handled confidentially.

### Available for Interview

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