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## **CCI and WA businesses team up with government and industry associations**

**Article by James Pearson CCI, West Australian column**

I'm visiting the UK and Ireland this week. CCI and WA businesses have teamed up with government and industry associations to talk to workers in the capitals and key provincial cities.

We're inviting them to re-locate to WA and help fill the growing number of jobs being created in our expanding economy.

People want to leave regions and towns suffering unemployment rates ranging from seven to 17 percent.

The newspapers carry stories about middle class families whose breadwinners have been made redundant and are sleeping rough in the cities to save money while they search for work.

As the European economies stumble and government austerity bites, well trained and highly motivated people are voting with their feet.

My own family followed the path forty years ago when they came to Perth as ten pound poms.

I'm back in the old country now to encourage a new wave of people with the skills, energy and entrepreneurial spirit that we need.

To be honest, on a quiet Sunday in Leeds, a windy day in Aberdeen or a rainy day in Dublin it doesn't take much to persuade people that a better future awaits.

And the success of tens of thousands of migrants before them and our welcoming attitude in WA is encouraging.

But time and again, highly motivated men and women who want to bring their skills and money to WA are telling us that they are being frustrated by red tape.

Lawyers, HR professionals, chefs, people with technical skills needed in the broader economy, not just in the mining and construction industry, have described to me how they are being tripped up by the fine print in the Australian government's migration process.

That's why CCI has sent our staff to migration expos and seminars in Europe to shortlist people for member companies looking for staff. Our migration advisers are helping would-be migrants navigate their way through the bureaucratic maze.

I'd no sooner stepped off the plane at Heathrow airport than the immigration clerk asked me if there could be a job in WA for her husband, an experienced disability services worker recently made redundant.

I explained that the demand for workers in the resources industry was making it harder for health and community services organizations to attract and retain staff.

Despite our best efforts to train young Western Australians for the new jobs, offer more flexible working conditions to encourage part timers into work and our invitation to people from the eastern states to move to WA, we still can't get all of the people that we need.

She planned to get on to the WA migration website as soon as she'd finished her shift.