



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Long service leave report addresses inequities

The Victorian Parliament's Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee has released its report on the portability of long service leave entitlements.

The Committee has found merit in introducing portable long service leave for the contract cleaning and security industries on the basis of providing equity to workers and the existence of similar schemes interstate. It has recommended that the Victorian Government commission feasibility studies into the introduction of portable long service leave schemes for these industries.

During its Inquiry, the Committee received conflicting evidence about the costs and benefits of portable long service leave.

"Various arguments presented to the Committee were not based on independent research, so the Committee found it difficult to reach a conclusion about the true impact of portable long service leave," Committee Chair Mr Nazih Elasmr said.

Mr Elasmr explained that the Committee's recommendations are based on the operation of similar portable long service leave schemes interstate. In particular the Committee is seeking to address the inequity experienced by some workers who, through no fault of their own, are unable to accrue enough service with the same employer to qualify for long service leave.

"The Committee heard from workers who have worked in the same job for over 10, sometimes 20, years and have never been able to take long service leave," said Mr Elasmr.

"Contract cleaners and security guards have a new employer each time service contracts change hands. When this occurs, their long service leave accruals are lost and they have to start again from scratch."

Mr Elasmr said that a portable long service leave scheme will enable these workers to accrue long service leave entitlements through service to the industry rather than a single employer.

The Committee also found that there was merit in expanding portability to the community services sector.

"The Victorian Government worked extensively between 2007 and 2010 to develop a portable long service leave scheme for the community services sector. However, there have since been significant changes to the sector, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and the previous modelling needs to be revised," Mr Elasmr said.

The report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

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