



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

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MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS
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GREAT SUCCESS FOR *LIVE IN CANBERRA* AT SOUTH AFRICAN 'OPPORTUNITIES AUSTRALIA EXPO'

The *Live in Canberra* and Skilled and Business Migration teams have been overwhelmed by the number of South Africans interested in migrating to Canberra during this week's Opportunities Australia Expo.

Chief Minister and Minister for Business and Economic Development Jon Stanhope said thousands of people attended the two-day expo held in Midrand, between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

"The team collected over 200 quality resumes from South Africans with the right skills for positions Canberra employers are finding difficult to fill," Mr Stanhope said.

"Skilled workers' resumes include ICT professionals, accountants, tradespeople and construction workers – all in high demand in Canberra. Their resumes will be distributed to *Live in Canberra* supporters and local employers."

Live in Canberra seminars were delivered to full-house crowds at the Expo and the team distributed over 1,000 brochures and CD ROMs promoting Canberra.

"Many of the South Africans the team met had already started the migration process but were unaware of Canberra as a possible destination. They were convinced their futures lay in Perth or Sydney and were pleasantly surprised at what Australia's national capital has to offer.

"The team also met with nine migration agents based in South Africa who assist skilled workers and businesses in migrating to Australia. Many of the migration agents were also unaware about opportunities in Canberra and are excited about offering Australia's capital as a new home for their clients.

"In the past six months, the Skilled and Business Migration Program has sponsored eight families from South Africa to work and live in Canberra. These families will bring skilled workers to Canberra, including a general practitioner, carpenter, construction manager, engineer, social worker and an accountant. The team arranged for these people to get together in South Africa and they have already started planning social activities for when they arrive next year.

"With most major cities in Australia facing serious skills shortages, our international marketing activities are becoming more and more important. The *Live in Canberra* and Skilled and Business Migration team will revisit the United Kingdom in late October to further spread the word about Canberra to skilled workers from overseas."

Statement Ends

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