

BUSINESS MIGRATION PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Small Business

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura - Minister for Small Business) [2.15 pm]: I advise the house of strong interest in Western Australia from potential business migrants in the United Kingdom and Ireland, which could lead to capital investment of up to \$90 million and the creation of 140 new jobs over the next three years. This promising information comes from the Small Business Development Corporation, which recently participated in a Western Australian government migration delegation to Dublin and London. The delegation also included representation from the skilled migration unit and the South West and Goldfields-Esperance Development Commissions.

During the delegation's visit, the SBDC completed and approved assessments for 68 business and 14 investor retirement visa applicants. With the assistance of the Western Australian European office in London, the delegation attended expos on migration in Dublin and London, participated in an Australian migration information day and conducted a series of seminars on business and skilled migration to WA. The two expos on migration to Australia drew enormous interest in Western Australia and attracted around 13 000 participants; the Australian migration information day attracted 400 participants; and the WA seminars attracted some 300 participants.

The government's business migration program is one of this state's key investment attraction initiatives. Last year the state approved sponsorship of 411 business migrants, which led to a capital inflow to Western Australia of some \$426 million and created more than 1 000 jobs. The Gallop government's continued support of the business migration program is yet another example of how it is providing new jobs and opportunities for all Western Australians.