



## **Chance to source skilled labour**

7 June 2005

Employers looking to fill skill shortages should explore the possibility of sponsoring skilled migrants from Zimbabwe, says Member for Flinders Mrs Liz Penfold.

She said employers on Eyre Peninsula had skill shortages in areas such as the construction, metal and vehicle trades, farming, baking, and refrigeration mechanics. "People in Zimbabwe are keen to migrate to Australia because of the political situation in that country and is a potential source of such workers," Mrs Penfold said.

She said EP employers could find out more by joining a gathering this weekend of the Zimbabwe Connection group at Mount Dutton Bay. The group consists of migrants from Zimbabwe who have made their homes on Eyre Peninsula and other parts of South Australia and people who are willing to be mentors for future migrants to regional SA.

EP has become home a number of Zimbabwean families, with recent arrivals living at Tumbay Bay, Wudinna and Lock. Another migrant is expected to arrive soon to work on a farm near Port Lincoln.

"I have found that Zimbabweans in particular are willing to settle in our small remote communities," Mrs Penfold said. "They bring skills that we badly need and they fit in well with the people in these small towns."

The weekend gathering will be addressed on Friday night by the senior manager of regional migration in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Robyn Hansen and by Peter Mitchell of the Eyre Regional Development Board, who is Immigration SA's regional project officer. Part of Mr Mitchell's role is to assist employers through the process of sponsoring a business migrant.

A workshop will be held on Sunday morning featuring ERDB business advisor Kelly-Anne Saffin, who will give a talk about the assistance available to business migrants.

"Potential employers are very welcome to come to the dinner or the workshop," Mr Mitchell said.

The gathering will also include a workshop and tour of Port Lincoln and an abalone farm.

For more information, contact Angela Condon in Liz Penfold's office on (08) 8683 0722.