MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Charles Smith MLC
One Nation WA Member of The Legislative Council

Smith Slams Skill Shortage Sham

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Member for the East Metro Region, Hon Charles Smith MLC has slammed the Government, The Migration Council of Australia and the Australian Industry Group for their continuous false claims about a ‘skills shortage’ in West Australia.

In September the Australian Industry Group surveyed 300 business and stated that 75% of those businesses reporting that they had difficulty filling positions. However a later report by the Grattan Institute showed that skill shortages in Australia are near historic lows.

“I have said this time and time again. In times of shortages, prices rise, including wages,” said Mr Smith.

“Wages in Australia are stagnating, in some cases going down, this does not suggest there is a shortage, it shows the opposite! The fact is there is an oversupply of labour and that is what is driving down wages in real terms”.

Mr Smith has previously attacked the Federal and State Governments over the skilled migration program which includes ‘priority’ jobs for the state, which include over-saturated professions such as solicitors, as well as more obscure jobs being considered as an entry pathway including traditional Chinese medicine practitioner.

“It’s a sham. The government brings people in to make easy money off them and the big business lobbyists support it because it means they get cheap and exploitable labour. It’s a modern slave labour economy and it’s fully supported by the McGowan Labor government,” said Mr Smith.

Mr Smith concluded by stating, Both Federal and State Governments need to start looking at these markets and ask themselves why wages are decreasing in an age of apparent skills shortages. It’s s a simple economic question they refuse to answer.”

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