

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

*Thirty-ninth Report — “Petition Number 17—Opposing Fee for 457 Visa Holders” — Tabling*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [3.13 pm]: I am directed to present the thirty-ninth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled “Petition Number 17—Opposing Fee for 457 Visa Holders”.

[See paper 2354.]

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** On 15 October 2013, a petition was tabled in the Legislative Council that opposed a \$4 000 tuition fee for the children of 457 visa holders who attend public schools, and the petition was referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs. Since the introduction of that policy in the 2013–14 state budget, the government has made a number of modifications to the policy. In November 2014 it was announced that the tuition fee of \$4 000 would apply to only the first child of families who earn more than \$75 000 and that exceptional circumstances would be considered under the financial hardship provisions. The government’s policy and the subsequent petition generated considerable community comment. The committee notes that a motion for disallowance of the regulations to implement this policy has moved pro forma. This brief report is provided to assist members in their consideration of that matter. The report outlines the inquiries conducted by the committee in relation to the petition, and in particular, the committee’s efforts to clarify the details of hardship provisions associated with the tuition fee. I commend the report to the house.