MEDIA RELEASE

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Ensure you have the right visa to travel to Australia

<u>Electronic visas (ETAs) do not allow you to work</u>

The Australian High Commission reminds Malaysians planning to work in Australia to ensure they have the correct visa before they travel.

On 7 February, 12 Malaysians were among a group of 27 illegal foreign workers identified working at a farm in Queensland. Nine Malaysians were found to have overstayed their visas and three others were working in breach of their visas, including the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA).

Most Malaysians are able to travel to Australia on an Australian Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). The ETA is intended for tourism and does not carry any right to work in Australia.

The Australian Government is determined to prevent the exploitation of foreign workers in Australia. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), through its operational arm the Australian Border Force (ABF), targets illegal workers and employers to stop visa fraud and foreign worker exploitation.

Some Malaysians are being tricked into scams in which agents offer visas for sale for the purposes of working. People who are scammed can find themselves paid nothing or paid very low wages and living in poor conditions.

Foreign nationals caught working illegally are detained and removed from Australia. They may also face sanctions on their future travel and incur the costs of their removal from Australia.

Malaysians travelling to Australia are advised to inform themselves about the proper channels to obtain Australian visas through the website of DIBP's service delivery partner, VFS Global, which operates the Australian Visa Application Centre in Kuala Lumpur www.vfsglobal.com/australia/malaysia/. Information is also available on the Immigration and Border Protection website www.border.gov.au

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