

SUBMISSION TO COMMITTEE

MIGRATION- PATHWAY TO NATION BUILDING

To the committee

I write my submission in regards to the process of gaining a biometric for international travellers to Australia and the best way to explain it is to give to you the example of what happened to my partner and I recently.

Late last year we applied for tourist visas for my partners two daughters to come to Australia to visit us for a short time and as we were aware a biometric was needed. Our two girls live in [REDACTED] Mindanao in the Philippines and as there are only two biometric centres in the whole of the Philippines with around 7000 islands you can see that difficulties arise. From the centre of Mindanao we had to arrange for the girls to travel to Davao and then take flights to Cebu to have their biometrics processed. The biometrics were completed successfully but at a cost of over \$1100 dollars for flights and accommodation but the problem was exacerbated when their visa application was refused and to our utter dismay we were required to fly the girls back to Cebu for another biometric which quite simply is ludicrous. My proposal to the committee is if a biometric is required have the biometric completed on arrival in Australia it only take a minute to gain the information to save the heartache and the expense of having to fly to another city in your own country to gain a biometric. Its 2023 I cannot see why biometrics cant be stored on a data base and used for example for 10 years , please help Home Affairs see the light. Another area I want to bring to your attention is the fact that contrary to the regulations as I am led to believe , not everybody completes a biometric before coming to Australia as I know first hand of friends who arrived in Australia and had their finger prints taken on arrival not before they arrive as I am led to believe should be that case.

In summing up I hope that the rules can be changed so that the gaining of a biometric does not burden future travellers like it has done to me and my partner. In countries like the Philippines make gaining a biometric more accessible like at a local police station for example or the local barangay office of administration in the Philippines or more sensibly have them completed in Australia on arrival and make it fair and equitable for everyone who travels to Australia

I thankyou in anticipation of perusing my submission and am willing to be consulted via mobile no [REDACTED] or emailed at [REDACTED]

Good luck with your investigations

[REDACTED]
Michael J Spicer