

From: [jb](#)
To: [Committee, Migration \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Migration
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Overview: I find that the notion that migration is the panacea for all of Australia's problems an anathema and that the reverse is the case. Australia is already overpopulated as we have borne witness to with species depletion, environmental degradation, water and other resource shortages, economic woes, our inability to provide education, health and infrastructure, housing shortages and homelessness.

The role of permanent migration in nation building, cultural diversity and social cohesion is nothing more than a furphy. Australian is already the most diverse country on the planet and social cohesion is not achieved by over-filling the bucket.

Again migration as a strategic enabler of vibrant economies and socially sustainable communities in our cities and regional hubs is outright hubris. Vibrant communities are achieved by equality and bottom-up solutions to our very real problems aka the Murray Darling Basin Disaster Plan.

Any migration into Australia must be planned in advance with a strategy that allows the migrants to move seamlessly into the community on a permanent basis. Migrants must be afforded the same rights as all Australians and the infrastructure must be in place prior to their arrival.

Migration into Australia should incorporate all family and humanitarian migrants and that they all be treated with respect and dignity. All off-shore detention centres should be closed and on-shore centres made over into social housing.

The role of settlement services and vocational training should be regulated in an effort achieve positive and regular outcomes for migrants. They should facilitate the migrants' experience, knowledge and acumen in training and job placement.

Placement of migrants into the community needs to be thoroughly scrutinised so that the best outcomes for communities and migrants can be achieved. Language and cultural barriers also need to be addressed prior to placement again to optimise benefit to the community,

Selective and humanitarian migration can be of benefit to Australia and the migrants, whereas the wholesale importation of migrants is degrading to those already here, the environment and the migrants.

John Bentley

