



Critical Care Nursing Agency

23 August 2002

Mr Richard Selth
Secretary
Joint Stand Committee on Migration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Medical Recruitment Specialists
Divisions of Health Employment P/L
ABN 66 003 894 531

Dear Sir,

RE: SUBMISSION FOR AUSTRALIA'S MIGRATION AND TEMPORARY ENTRY PROGRAM FOR SKILLED LABOUR

EMPLOYER NOMINATION CATEGORY

I write with regard to the Review that the Joint Standing Committee on Migration is conducting with regard to the migration and temporary entry program for skilled labour.

By way of introduction we are an employment agency ("Health Employment P/L") specializing in medical recruitment of critical care nurses and locum doctors. Our agency places contract nurses in all major hospitals around Australia as well as placement and long term assignment of doctors in major hospitals. You will be aware there is a critical shortage of both with the agency only able to fill approx 30% of demand.

The directors of the company are a doctor and registered nurse. We have many years experience and have hands on daily contact within the market.

The company is a pre-qualified business sponsor. We have over the past 12 months experienced major problems in NSW with regard to placing sponsored nurses under temporary business visa class 457. I list below our submission representing some of these problems for your consideration:

1. We are at present endeavouring to recruit skilled critical care nurses from the UK, US, NZ and South Africa under the Temp Business Class Visa. We have been granted a sponsorship program under DIMA over the next 4 years. We have had some limited success in obtaining some recruitments, however we are only able to place these sponsored nurses in private hospitals.
2. Most of the difficulties we face are being experienced in NSW. We are at present unable to place our sponsored overseas nurses in public hospitals in NSW (unless in an emergency situations) due to Department of Health regulations. If we are truly experiencing major shortages with nurses within



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the NSW Public Hospital system, this directive is both frustrating and puzzling as we do not have any problems with other states.

3. Sponsored nurses on relatively small incomes are required to pay large school fees when placing their children in public schools in NSW. This again does not occur in other states.
4. They are also required to pay for their own health care as some are not covered or limited under the public system.

We have found that the issues raised above are major barriers for attracting nurses to our sponsored program. We feel these areas need to be addressed urgently if we are to make any progress in this area.

We would be happy to discuss these issues further should the opportunity arise.

Yours faithfully,
HEALTH EMPLOYMENT PTY LTD

DR DAVID SCOTT
Director

ANNA SCOTT
Director