

Submission No.	58
Date Received	4-7-05

From: Sally Hindmarch
Sent: Monday, 4 July 2005 4:35 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: Re: Skilled Migration

RECEIVED
 04 JUL 2005

BY: MLC

Re: Skilled Migration

I wish to bring to your attention the debacle that has just occurred in relation to a relative of mine who wished to immigrate to Australia from England. It is common knowledge that Australia, especially NSW, are in critical need of train drivers. My niece and her husband, who is an experienced Train Driver, Trainer of Safety Standards as well as Safety Manager, made enquiries to Australia House in London as to the most appropriate visa to apply for. The 4year temporary business visa appeared the most suitable with a Nominated Employer Sponsor application after two years of working in Australia in the same profession.

As you are aware, train drivers are not on the skilled migrants list, so it was clear that my relative, was going to need sponsorship by a private train/freight company. All documents pertaining to the immigration process to Australia were read with several liaisons with the Department of Immigration only to find that State Rail was not an option due to the policy of employees in government departments requiring permanent residency. State Rail was very interested in he had 14 years of Industry related experience, desperately needed in NSW. To quote their words "we would love to employ your relative as we are looking for train drivers, but we are unable to recruit from overseas due to policy."

We believed that if we could find a private freight company that would offer full-time employment and possibly sponsorship then all requirements of immigration would be met. I did find a National recognised freight company that was very interested in however there were a couple of stipulations that had to be met before an offer of employment could be made. They were:

1. Safe working Qualifications applicable for NSW
2. Safety Critical Worker Assessment Category 1
- 3 Psychometric testing

liaised with the National Freight Company, who encouraged him to come to Australia to meet all the requirements. started the Safe Working Course at the Southern Cross Rail Training on 16 May, 2005 for a period of three weeks where he completed and passed all requirements. also participated in the Safety Critical Worker Assessment Category 1 and Psychometric Testing, all at his own expense. At the completion of all assessments and passing all requirements at the interview, was offered a full-time Trainee Driver position (all drivers undergo this trainee period) with a start date of 19 September, 2005. Unfortunately the company would not sponsor at the last minute having consulted with their immigration specialist who had informed them that Train Drivers were not on the list of skilled migrants required in Australia.

was forced to return to England a devastated man with all his dreams of living in Australia and starting a new life shattered. had a firm offer of full-time permanent employment at a Nationally Recognised Company, Sponsorship by family members for accommodation, a substantial personal bond sufficient to enter the Real Estate Market in Australia and a willingness to embrace all aspects of Australian culture.

The purpose of this e-mail is to seek assistance that will allow to start work if not in

September 2005, then in the not too distant future. The need for more train drivers can only increase with freight companies desperate to meet public needs in the many areas associated with goods and services. As NSW continues its rapid development, Industries across the state will be improvised, driver fatigue and safety standards will be stretched unless somebody with common sense realises that train drivers must be placed on the list of professions URGENTLY.

Thank you for reading this e-mail, I hope that the reader is able to refer this matter to the appropriate body to assist and others very keen to follow him.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hindmarch