

15 SEP 2005

BY: M19

Friday, 09 September 2005

Mr. Don Randall MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission No. 97
Date Received 15-9-05

Dear Mr. Randall,

I'd like to ask your attention for a personal matter.

Last December, after gathering all kind of information, my wife, daughters and I agreed on applying for immigration to Australia.

Being a nurse with more than ten years of ambulance and ER experience, knowing Australia is in need of skilled nurses, I hoped registration at "the New South Wales Nurses Board" was possible on a short notice.

By mediation of a Recruitment office, I was able to meet a representative of "New South Wales Health" in Amsterdam last January. I accepted a job offer from Gosford Hospital. We agreed to start in November 2005 at the ER in Gosford, expecting to be registered by then.

After sending my certificates to a sworn translator, and requesting for certificates of competence from formal employers, I send my application forms and documents to "the New South Wales Nurses Board" Last March the board informed me that I fulfilled all requirements for registration except achieving the necessary score for the "International English Language Test System" An overall band score of 7, no marks lower than 6.5.

After applying for the third time, it seems that the "IELTS" is the biggest obstacle in realising our dream. Being not much of a writer in Dutch, writing an essay in English in a limited time, seems to be not feasible. My last overall band score was 7: listening 7.5 reading 7.0 speaking 7.0 and writing 6.0

The Gosford Hospital job offer is withdrawn in June, being not able to register and immigrate in time.

Dear mister Randall, The many vacancies for skilled nurses all over Australia, and the news reports by Dutch media, telling us that the Australian government is stimulating immigration of skilled workers, are giving everybody the impression, that migration to Australia is in our mutual interest. I wonder why such high standards are used for registration for nurses in Australia. It's understandable that good English skills are a necessity for working in health care. Being labelled a "good user" should be enough prove of that. It's likable English skills will improve rapidly ones living and working in Australia.

By talking to other candidates during IELTS exams, I know a lot off well educated specialised nurses are having similar trouble achieving the minimum IELTS score, decreasing the amount of immigrants from non English speaking countries.

With this letter I hope to illustrate the difficulties of motivated skilled nurses, in their attempt to be able to immigrate to Australia. Maybe by decreasing the requirements of language skills for registration, the amount of well trained nurses will increase. This is an advantage for both.

Respectfully yours,

TDK