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

Dear Mr. Selth,

As a newly arrived immigrant to Australia (27 April 2001) under the scheme of "Skilled Migrant", I would like to share my own as well as other's experience in finding a job according to our academic and professional qualifications.

Since I have shared my experience with very many other skilled migrant in similar circumstances in order to improve our probabilities of getting a better job (in some cases to get a job at all), I wonder how this submission "nor can it be published or disclosed to any other person unless or until the Committee has authorised its publication".

Our biggest concern is to be productive for the Australian society that opened the door to all of us. We do not want to be a burden whatsoever.

**PURPOSE OR GOAL**

As a result, among very many, my only proposal is that there should be a BODY which facilitates the communication among Government agencies, the business community and skilled migrants. The fact is that nowadays each group behaves like stars in a dark night, spread all over the firmament with very little link to take advantage of the academic qualifications and professional experience that skilled migrant can offer.

As always, any time I could help the society I live in, I will do it. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

## **SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE**

### **PURPOSE**

To set up a BODY to facilitate the communication among "the Government Net Work", "Skilled Migrant Net Work" and "the Business Community Net Work". Currently, this service is not available, partly in isolation.

In other words, to offer the migrant, specially the new ones, a sort of "Net Works of Net Works" to be able to settle down as fast and smoothly as possible. The immigrant must be confident that by visiting the BODY, he/she can get the best available information (advice) to enhance and rapidly increase the possibility to get a place in the business community.

### **GOVERNMENT NET WORK**

As a matter of fact, there are many government agencies available to help skilled migrant. Unfortunately, in many cases there is no link at all among some of them. I found that in a particular case, staff within a government agency did not know that it offered a very important service for an immigrant.

The BODY, by being aware of the services available not just within its government agency but among all of them, clearly enhances the facilities available to help skilled migrant to settle sooner.

### **SKILLED MIGRANT NET WORK**

"In 2000 / 01 80.610 people migrated to Australia. Of these, 44.730 (55%) settled in Australia as skilled migrants. 41% came under the family program" (Review of Australia's migration and temporary entry program for skilled labour, page8) which implies that once landed, some migrants had some sort of "Extended Net Work" (similar to the definition of "Extended Families"). However, there is a percentage that has no Net Work at all once in Australia. This group has to begin from scratch. This is one of the very best services the Australian Government can provide, not just to the later but also to the former.

The BODY will also provide a place to meet, to know each other, to share valuable experiences, to know what is going on locally, to advice among themselves sometimes in their native language and so on and so forth.

The BODY should set a different groups based upon their professions or trade. Furthermore, creates and monitors a consistent and organized program according to their professions in order to build up their confidence and Net Work.

## **BUSINESS COMMUNITY NET WORK**

It is very common to hear that "I have sent hundreds of resumes via the internet with no answer at all". In my particular case, from countless curriculum vitas sent, in some I was told that "for a senior position I do not have local experience, and for a junior position I was overqualified". A vicious circle.

AMES has an excellent program (Practical Placements) to help skilled migrant to get some very much-needed local experience. However, it falls short of expectations. Once the program has finished, every one is left on his/her own. There is no follow-up. The BODY will connect and enhance the valuable contacts and know-how that AMES has, and will permanently and consistently keep the business community in touch with the skilled migrant either through forums, panels, industry visits, etc.

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