

Monk, David (REPS)

Subject: FW: Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

-----Original Message
From: Katrina Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 June 2006 2:06 PM
To: Committee (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

I know the date for submissions into this enquiry has passed but I have just become aware of a brilliant idea operating in Canada which I think you're enquiry should consider.

The Canadian Govt has introduced a class of visa whereby carers can be bought into Canada on a 2 year working visa if they live in a family's home and care for either the elderly, the disabled or children generally. Once they have "served" their 2 years, the carer and his/her family can apply for permanent residence in Canada!!

see www.ci.gc.ca/english/pub/caregiver for more details.

This would really ease the burden of care in Australia. It would take a lot of the heat out of the childcare places debate as well as helping families caring for the elderly or the disabled.

I am the parent of a 9 year old girl who is severely intellectually and physically disabled. I need in-home help caring for my daughter both now and in the long term. I have tried au pairs but they are so transient and are often here just to "party". I have tried out of home carers but they are terribly expensive and also are rarely prepared to come in just for the "high need" times like early morning.

I don't have time to write more but have plenty more to say.

Katrina Clark
[REDACTED]