

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your interest and for giving my sister (Maria Gillman) the opportunity to participate at the public hearing. As she will be representing me, I want to simply say that I fully support her and the common-sense arguments she brings regarding the migration policies as they currently stand in Australia.

It is my desire to join her in Australia and to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of men, women and/or children in any way I can. My current experience in crisis counseling, community development and dealing with people from all walks of life, all ages and all nations is giving me valuable insight into the dynamics of cross-cultural issues.

I completely believe in the principle of earning my own living and providing for myself as I have been taught in my parents' home. It is therefore not my intention or expectation that the Australian social services should provide for me in any way.

Within the next 3 weeks I will have completed a correspondence course in Community Development with the University of the Nations (founded by Youth with a Mission) in Cona, Hawaii. In January of 2010 I will do the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) which is, as you may know, an internationally recognized course in teaching English.

My desire is to work where people can be developed in a wholistic way, especially in the area of education and skills training. I have no doubt that Australia has great expertise in both these areas, but with this statement, I simply want to show my willingness to participate in creating a solid future generation with those who are already working in these fields.

I am also an entrepreneur and hope to use the arts (sculpturing and clothing design) to express my creative abilities. Both these can of course be used in a therapeutic way and I hope to make these kinds of studios available to members of the public.

In short, I am a very active member of the staff where I am currently working, in a leadership position and making valuable contributions to the organization. I see no reason why I should be treated as a second-rate citizen of any country or deemed as simply a mouth to feed while I have intelligence, reason, hands to work with and a will to make a success of my life and see success in the lives of those I come in contact with.

May anything and everything that you do and eventually present to the authorities bring hope to others that are also found in circumstances similar to mine.

Greetings

Una Thyse

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