

Submission No.	64
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Sent: Thursday, 7 July 2005 9:19 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: Submission - Skilled Migration

To The Secretary,

The Federal Parliament's Migration Committee,

I am a migrant who came to Australia in 1989.

I migrated with my family under the professional category and had absolutely no problems in finding the job directly linked to my qualifications and experience.

Why simply because my application was based on **employability criteria** which these days do not exist.

In my first job I lasted 10 years, thereafter taking another couple of jobs in the commercial sector - great experience in regional Australia.

This experience was accomplished in regional Victoria and I must say that it was a great experience living in the regional area. .

During that time there was nothing as TRA which presently assesses potential migrant's qualifications and experience for migration to Australia.

I note with concern that these days skilled migration is controlled by what is on the **MODL List**.

Today international students and colleges thrive on MODL List, regardless of the job outcome and employability of students.

During my time **employability** was the key criteria for migration.

Today we see glorified taxi drivers in Melbourne and Sydney most likely these people have studied IT, Cookery or Hairdressing at colleges in Australia.

If this trend is allowed to continue then true skilling of our industries will never be achieved through skilled migration.

It looks like that colleges and institutions offering these courses (IT, Cookery and Hairdressing) are dominant players in influencing our present policies for Skilled Migration - flooding our streets with people who will never practice in their respective trades and professions.

The reality of skilled shortage in regional areas is not given the attention it deserves.

Will the extra 10 bonus points for SIR visa solve skill shortage problem in the Horticulture industry ? The fact is that growers' sons and daughters are leaving farms at much faster rate than ever before in the history of this county.

If this trend is allowed to continue then it is very hard to say who will be our future growers and where will they come from ? The local students are least interested in undertaking studies in Horticulture so our future growers will have to be people from outside. What migration policies will address these issues ?

However, future growers can no longer be novices without skills - they must be skilled.

These days they need to be highly skilled in horticultural practices and implementation of QA programs which require sound technical skills in application of farm chemicals and skills in agronomic practices.

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If anything, then these occupations should be on the MODL List not Cookery, Hairdressing or IT or Accounting.

My conversation with several people reveal that qualified accountants cannot find jobs in Australia - yet this occupation is on the MODL List.

I therefore believe that **EMPLOYABILITY** should be the key criteria for Skilled Migration to Australia.

Employability should be the bottom-line of our skilled migration policy.

The education business in Australia is so lucrative today that many Migration Agents have opened up colleges to deliver courses leading to virtual issue of paper qualifications for MODL listed occupations such as Commercial Cookery IT and Hairdressing and more recently Motor Mechanic.

The scope of registration for one college in Melbourne is seen as directly related and proportional to extension of MODL List.

The effect of this trend would be a disaster for our industry skills in Australia.

The recent announcement by TRA for 900 hours of mandatory industry / work experience was knocked on the head for some reason.

The original rules had to be reversed for some reason and this will not help the situation with our future skilled migration.

The original rule was good where 900 hours of paid work experience at **minimum industry award rate** was the bottom-line.

Now many students are paying the employers to write fake / fraudulent payslips falsely confirming that they have met the 900 hours requirement related to their AQ awards.

This is a desperate effort by many students to gain PR in Australia. Some colleges seem to be encouraging and supporting this type of activity.

I hope this 900 Hour rule is further tightened and monitored more strictly so that only genuine skilled migrants are allowed to become eligible for PR.

This will help provide a genuine solution to our skilled migration.

Yours sincerely,