

This is in relation to the inquiry into the contribution of migration to Australian society. There are two main factors for the rationale behind Chaldean migrants failing to work in their profession. The first factor is the language barrier which exists. When Chaldeans migrate to Australia their English, both written and oral, is very poor. In order to strengthen their English and enable them to acquire a job in their desired profession, they need to study English which costs money. This brings me to the next barrier which is economy. The majority of Chaldeans do not have a job as they do not have experience and lack English skills to work. They do not have the means in terms of money to enable them to study as the majority are on Centrelink benefits. Thus, they are left with no choice but to work as cleaners. It is absurd that Chaldean migrants who hold masters and doctorates in medicine, law, engineering and so forth have to work as cleaners in order to survive in Australia. Thus, a few recommendations to the Australian government would be to establish courses at no cost to the migrants to assist them in writing cover letters, resumes and prepare them for interviews as well as assist them in obtaining work experience as work experience is a pre-requisite in the majority of private and public jobs in Australia. Hopefully this will end the barriers which currently exist to Chaldean migrants.

1. Intake of migration to include skilled migrants from the Chaldean community. A separate number of Chaldean skilled migrants from the community included as part of the intake into Australia.
2. Qualifications from Overseas not recognized in Australia – we need to invest in people who are permanent residence who are unable to find jobs in their specialist area. Highly educated people are more valuable than those skilled workers sourced from other countries who lack formal qualifications.
3. There is a stereotype associated with being Iraqi and therefore a negative image of our community is portrayed. Potential employers do not seek job seekers who have arrived as refugees due to the harmful media representation.
4. Asylum seeker intakes should not interfere with the processing of offshore applications from Chaldean community who are genuine applicants waiting in countries neighboring to Iraq.
5. The community lacks any resources such as a community centre or family centre to unite people and promote harmony within the culture (settlement)
6. Creating hybrid program (Scheme) to differentiate between skilled migrants (Permanent Residence) and humanitarian program.
7. The Chaldean church is the centre of our community, the church willing to support skilled migrants of our community of offshore applicants eg: doctors, engineers... etc.
8. Church and community willing to sponsor certain skilled individuals with special skills to be in benefit to the Chaldean community in Australia.