

**From:** Lorraine Chance

**Sent:** Sunday, 4 August 2002 1:41 PM

**To:** jscm.reps@aph.gov.au

**Subject:** Migration review

Dear Ms Gambaro,

In response to your invitation to comment on the migration program, I would like to appeal to the Committee on Migration to reconsider the plight of skilled people living in S Africa and Zimbabwe.

These people are at a disadvantage when it comes to migrating right from the onset, compared to would-be migrants from say the UK or any other western country.

Firstly, because of the extremely low currency value in these two countries, migrants stand to lose enormous amounts of money and arrive with very little with which to start a new life in a new country. A lot of them cannot come in under the Business Category etc. or bring much money with them.

Secondly, because of the high crime rate, lack of available jobs and particularly in Zimbabwe, the trauma of living in a war-like situation each and every day, I think the Australian Immigration Dept. should take a more humanitarian view of the difficulties these people are in. They, above all, should be given refugee status.

These people are skilled, hard working, English speaking people who are in desperate situations.

My brother who lives in Durban, has tried several times to get into Australia. His application only warrants a 50/50 chance of getting a permit. He has to pay several thousands of dollars up front before he can apply, and if rejected he loses the money. Further more, as he is now over 45 years old, he cannot get in here, even though his wife is ten years younger and they have a young family. He is a carpenter and his wife is a qualified legal secretary specialising in conveyancing, but they still cannot get enough points. They would be very happy to live in a rural area such as Toowoomba or Ipswich or even further north, but have been told by Immigration Agencies that they would have to be sponsored. How are they to find someone in one of these areas who would be willing to sponsor them? The rules are ridiculous to say the least.

I read recently in The Courier-Mail, that there is a low influx of migrants to these rural areas. If they made things a little easier for decent people from these two countries to get in, they would not have the problem of lack of skilled labour. My brother has no other blood relative, other than his children, living in S Africa. I am here on my own and worry constantly about the dangers his life is in over there.

Please can something be done to make it easier for these people to get into Australia, where there would be no cultural changes to adapt to, compared to refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan, of which many have no skills and cannot speak English.

I look forward to your comments and any help you can offer.

Yours sincerely  
Lorraine Chance.

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