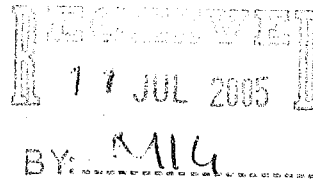


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Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
Department of House of Representatives  
Parliament House.  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
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Given the current conditions in the Australian labor market and the speed of technological change that modern economies are facing, measures that can be undertaken through immigration law that could provide advantages to the Australian economy should be look after. In particular the level of technology and the speed of communications with Australian embassies around the world allow implementing bold ideas to address such issues.

With that spirit in mind measures to be implemented in the short and long term to allow easiness to the labor market and to keep the strength of the Australian economy could be the following:

In the short term, evaluate the granting of permanent resident status to university international students that are currently enrolled and physically in Australia. The reasons: They are in the thousands, already in Australia, educated or in the process of getting education, have shown respect for the Australian education system and have chosen it over others. As they are not citizens or permanent residents of Australia they are not considered by many employers because of the costs of providing training to people that is only expected to be around for some time and because they can only work part time. Even the government shares this disposition towards these students in their employability policies. Different media reports have shown that the shortage of potential employees is not restricted to given skills but it extends to blue and white-collar positions even in state and local government offices. Economics as an academic field teaches that expectations play an important function in the behavior of the members of society, only the news of the passing of a law like this will weigh in deterring the pressure of higher wages and could help to prolong the 14 year economic expansion that Australia is enjoying. A measure like this is worth taking into consideration because it would incorporate with no delay easiness into the labor market with people already integrated in the community. International students undertaking postgraduate courses even if not in fields "currently" in high demand, are a group that developed economies would like to incorporate into their labor force to address the problem of ageing populations.

In the long run, a bold step to supplement current policies could be to evaluate the administration of Intelligence tests towards potential migrants. It is my experience that people that even posses the skills that were considered at a given time in high demand suffer to incorporate to the community and to demonstrate a proper level of the use of the English language even after many years of their arrival to Australia. People which rank high on psychological intelligence tests are by definition "intelligent". They have the skills to adjust to varying conditions with the easiness not seen in other lots. They represent a very low percentage of the population of a given country. If Australia can tap into such a group and incorporate them to the labor force

after a given time of training and education the only things that could be harvested by the Australian economy should be benefits. There are many intelligence tests developed by psychologist that can be used and administered by Australian embassies around the world. Such a policy would generate high expectations and is very likely to be followed by other governments if successful. As a reference, to be admitted to the London School of Economics or to Harvard in the US in a business course one has to sit the GMAT or GRE. Of course these are only some of the many parameters to screen people abilities but they stand out because they are efficiently administered and their outcomes are proofs of performance. The difference with intelligence tests is that for the later there is no way to "study" to such a test, either one will rank high on it or not no matter what one does. The organization of a program designed to test and channel such outperforming individuals to the Australian economy is a bold task. If it can be done it should be done. Australia can do it.

It should not be overseen that Canada and Britain are also in the race to tap highly productive individuals. From information accessed through the web page of their immigration department, Canadians allocate more points to people that have a bachelor degree in a given field and a master in a different one. Such a policy is not seen here in Australia. In the British case, an article on the subject from *The Economist* July 2, 2005 Britain: Mobility business; Visas, states: "...Unlike some other countries, Britain does not make applicants find a job first: with good qualifications, they can just turn up and look for work. That helps keep Britain's economy flexible and competitive..."

With the submission addressing the long run for the Australian case, the aim would be directed to the root of the matter: who in the first place is better placed to be a highly productive individual. Lets identify them and lets train them. It will not only benefit the Australian economy. It is well known that developing economies cannot afford to give opportunities for their young people because of lack of capital. As a result there are talented individuals that if given the opportunity would blossom. In this sense, the implementation of the policy submitted would benefit Australia in its economic strength and would also portray the good will of the Australian Government doing its share in improving living conditions for people from countries facing other circumstances.

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