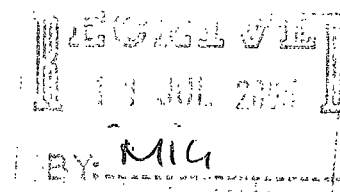


Submission No.	12
Date Received	30-6-05

Neil McKellar



Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration
 House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 Canberra
 ACT 2600

Dear Sir

A recently released Research Note by the Parliament Library dated 10.05.05 on Australia's Migration programme.

One Section with statistics on Migration Programme Settler Arrivals 1990-2004 reveals a progressive change in policy on Family Immigration.

The figures are as follows:

<u>Eligibility Category</u>	<u>1990-1991</u>	<u>1996-1997</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>
<u>Family</u>	52,934	36,490	29,548
<u>Skill</u>	48,241	19,697	51,529

This reveals a substantial decrease in family immigration and an increase in skilled.

What are the "cause and effects" of these changes and how have they been achieved.

1. By setting a high financial threshold for parents on Sub-Class 410 migration (approx \$875,000). This has eliminated a considerable section of the less well off applicants.
2. Migrant Parents who qualify and have been accepted as suitable and queued to await permanent visa (The last available figures show there were approximately 22,000 queued)

3. The allocation of migration places per year is around 1,000 places (80% allocated to offshore applicants and 20% to onshore applicants)
4. To try to ease the log jam, a Contributory Visa was introduced. The costs were approximately \$67,500 per couple. The uptake on this was slow, though recently this seems to have improved.
5. People queued for Aged Parent Visas are most in the age 65-75 bracket and can expect to be queued from 5.5 to 7.5 years if their original application was made onshore, longer if made offshore.
6. This situation suggest that Actuarial Engineering has taken place to keep queued, applicants for Aged Parents in a "no mans land situation". This to ensure that natural age erosion will diminish the number and those who attain Permanent Resident Status will spend less time in the welfare system once admitted

This is a shocking way to treat people in their twilight years and needs investigation and a more humane system evolved.

7. Australia will always need "Brain Gain" Immigrants to carry it forward and to compensate for "Brain drain Emigration". To retain highly skilled "Brain Gain" personnel there has to be a better system put in place for family followers.
8. in compiling immigration regulations there needs to be humane considerations as well as fiscal ones. Those who read this will also become old some day.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen, as members of the Joint Immigration Committee please ask questions on the prevailing situation and if it is within your powerbase try to change it for the better. Please do so with the utmost haste in view of the age group and the stress involved.

Respectfully yours

N. McKellar

Neil McKellar.