

Submission No. 60
Date Received 5-7-05

From: Grant Berry |
Sent: Tuesday, 5 July 2005 6:17 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: Submission :Inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing

Attention: Joint Committee on Migration.

Dear Members;

As a recent successful Skilled Migrant (File OSF 2002/160393) , I offer the following contribution giving the benefit of my prima faciae experience in the "Ordeal". I have just two comments-

OBSERVATION No.1: Skilled Migration is an Ordeal - The time taken to have one's Qualifications assessed together with the time that DIMIA take to process the entire application is just hideous. I feel that Australia looses out on the REALLY skilled personnel that are "snapped up" by other countries that are more expedient in the processing of Skilled Migrants. Personally, I nearly gave up out out sheer frustration and impatience ands went elsewhere; It was only the encouragement of friends and relatives that lent persistence.

Depending on one's Field of Work, an Australian recognition can anything between 3 months (minimum) and a Year. The DIMIA "processing" takes another year (minimum) . Most Professionals have a life to get on with, and the notion of spending two-to-three years "in limbo" is ludicrous. An applicants circumstances can change a great deal in that time, particularly in the "family" arena - be it change of marital status, the arrival of children (Substantial impact on an Applicants desire to "stay put") etc. We understand that Cerification/Recognition of Skills may need to wait for a monthly Board meeting - but no longer than that should be acceptable.

If Australia is to attract THE BEST in terms of Skilled Migrants, it needs to be EXPEDIENT and DECISIVE. Otherwise those will be lost to Australia, and we will be left with "second best".

OBSERVATION No.2 : DIMIA apparently CREATES unnecessary delays. - In speaking to other Fellow Skilled Migrants who have endured the same tedious process, I conclude that DIMIA waste time by handling the file three or four separate times, each time with a "wait" in some Sections "In-basket" followed by a final "wait-out" time. I feel a File/Application should be dealt with by ONE officer (Like an Account Manager) who pushes it thru each section expediently from cradle-to-grave. I am convinced that most applications are processable within a few weeks (and futher, I belive that most ARE), but then they sit in a "Pending" file for a further eleven months, just because DIMIA have given themselves a 50-week window in which to ...I don't know... do nothing, it seems.

If DIMIA have a LEGITIMATE reason for such inefficiency and delays in processing (for example staff shortages) then that should be identified, addressed, and fixed. We understand that the Application may need to wait for a monthly Board meeting/sign-off by Ministerial Dept - but no longer than that should be acceptable.

In summary : DIMIA causes Australia to loose good people; They get frustrated and go elsewhere, where the process is efficient and inviting. It should take absolutely no longer than six weeks.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

6/07/2005