

Sent: Monday, 4 July 2005 2:51 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: Skilled Migration (Daily Telegraph Sat July 2nd)

Submission No.	52
Date Received	4-7-05

To whom it may concern,

I am an Air conditioning & Refrigeration technician from Ireland currently living and working in Sydney. I've been here for three years now, and I'm sponsored on a four (4) year 457 business visa by my current employer. From my experience the system for assessing foreign tradespeople is a nightmare. I first completed a skills assessment and was examined both in theory and practical by TAFE / Dept of Education. I passed all the exams, and received a full Trades qualification, and I also received a Dept of Fair Trading Contractors Licence, this was a prerequisite for working with my current employer.

In April 2004, I applied for Permanent Residency as a skilled Migrant. As part of my application I had to go through the process again, The fact that I was already a qualified technician in NSW didn't matter. This time it was a \$500 fee to TRA (Trades Recognition Australia) to have all my skills checked. After a lengthy four month wait (I paid the \$500 which was the express service!) I finally got the word back that I was approved as a Refrigeration & Air conditioning mechanic.

This letter of approval from TRA was then lodged with my application for Permanent residency to the Adelaide processing office. I then had my case officer pick my application apart, asking for extra proof of skills etc! I mean the TRA are supposed to be the official governing body for Trades recognition, so now I had to provide even more documentation.

The whole thing from start to finish has been crazy, it seems that as soon as you provide the correct documentation, the goal posts suddenly get changed. I am now waiting to hear back with regard to my final application, so fingers crossed I have done everything right. But it really does seem a lengthy drawn out process for something that should be fairly straight forward.

I hope this letter is of use to you, and if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks

Regards

Scott Campbell
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NSW Field Supervisor