

Submission No. 46  
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**Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Migration from the Melbourne International Social Group**

**Background**

Ms. Adrienne Farrelly and others formed the Melbourne International Social Group (MISG), in 2003. The mission of the MISG is to provide for the social and emotional wellbeing of repatriated Australians, foreign expatriates and migrants and to provide opportunities for mentoring and business networking. Due to media coverage the group has grown quickly in number to approx. 600 individuals. These individuals have lived in a number of countries for varying lengths of time and cover a wide range of professions.

**Term of reference of Joint Standing Committee on Migration to be addressed**

- Australian citizens returning after significant time overseas, with overseas qualifications.
- Communication of processes to users;
- Efficiency of processes and elimination of barriers;

**MISG recommendations:**

- i) Research the financial benefits to industries in employing repatriates, expatriates and migrants and use this data to educate key industry leaders and industry associations, chambers and unions on the many benefits of employing this group of people
- ii) Over 50% of repatriated employees leave their company within two years returning from overseas postings creating a huge financial and skill-based loss for the company. Therefore industries need to be educated on the importance of having transition programs in place when repatriates, expatriates and migrants are employed. This will ensure a better utilisation of their unique skills and retention rates will improve.
- iii) Create a web portal for repatriates, expatriates and migrants looking at coming to or returning to Australia where they can post their resumes. This can be advertised at the Australian missions abroad. Include in this portal recent Australian news, current affairs, cultural issues and advice, political situation, industry standards, companies looking to employ overseas skilled staff, recruitment agencies that deal specifically with repatriates, expatriates and migrants etc. Provide information on things you should do before coming to or repatriating back to Australia. Create a step by step process to follow and inform them of possible problems they may encounter such as jobs, Medicare, credit card, insurance, references for housing etc.
- iv) Utilise Australian Embassies, Consulates and Chambers of Commerce to create a closer network
- v) Increase public awareness by through media coverage, articles, papers and documentation on the issues.
- vi) Hold some form of awards to celebrate the benefits this group of people gives to Australia's economy.