

From: Barry Gerald Parker |
Sent: Saturday, 2 July 2005 5:14 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: Skilled Migration.

Submission No. 48
Date Received... 4-7-05

Dear Sir or Madam,
your recent item in the Herald Sun newspaper, requested views on the present skilled migration system. There is a source of skilled labour within the country that is not being used due to the restrictive immigration rules & regulations that apply to the self funding retiree class of visa. I will give you an example of which there must be many cases.

My wife & I reside in Australia under the limitations of renewable self funding temporary visas.

My wife is 52 years old & a degree qualified occupational therapist.

I am 57 years old & am a fully qualified electrician, of 40 years experience.

I worked for 2.5 years in NSW as a skilled migrant electrician in the 1970s & returned to the UK for personal family reasons.

My daughter was born here but grew up in the UK & has now returned as a registrar medical doctor.

My wife & I have returned to join our daughter & family by means of renewable temporary visas.

The terms of this visa are very restricting & difficult to maintain. We have to be totally self funding with set amounts of money plus good health to enable each two year visa to be renewed.

There are limitations on work. Although the passport visa is stamped " No Work " we are actually permitted to work for 20 hours per week. Employers are not willing to take people on for such short hours.

After submitting my trade papers etc, I have been accepted once again by the Australian Trades Recognition Board as an electrical mechanic & have requested a licence.

I have been informed that I would need to attend a college course to gain an "A Grade " licence, even though I worked here as an electrician in the 1970s.

A second college course would be required for me to work as a self employed contracting electrician.

I have held supervisors positions in my field of work which has involved domestic, commercial, industrial & construction electrics.

Both my wife & I have skills that are in demand in Australia but are prevented from using them for the benefit of ourselves & this country.

To conclude: if we are here for the rest of our lives, as intended, then our skills could be put to good use.

We are currently on a 5 to 6 year waiting list for permanent visas.

There must be many skilled people within Australia under these same restrictions.

I hope you find these comments of use & may in some way allow you to debate the issue further.

Please feel free to reply.

Yours Sincerely
Barry Parker

Dear Paola,

Thank you for your reply.

Please feel free to submit my comments to the inquiry & also for publication, regarding the issue of skilled migration.

The main point I was trying to put across was not so much the age restriction but the fact that there are many self funding retirees, of working age, already **residing legally in Australia** under renewable visas. These people have professions & skills that are in great demand but are not allowed to put them to good use, due to limitations on this class of visa.

They have brought considerable wealth into the country as part of their terms of entry & would not be a burden to the Australian tax payer.

This is a complete waste of skilled resources that the government can ill afford to ignore.

If you choose to submit my original comments would you please emphasize the above points.

Yours Sincerely

Barry Parker.