

Submission No. 73
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From: Bob Messenger
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2005 10:19 AM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: my views on skilled migration
Importance: High

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BY: MIC

Dear Paola,

Thank you for your time when I called recently.

My name is Bob Messenger, I arrived in Australia in July 2002 on a small business owner visa. I have since formed and built a freight forwarding company, to which I am a director, which was why I was accepted over here by the Government.

It is good that the Australian Government is asking for feedback on skilled migration, as I have felt for a long time the system is not perfect.

You have a large skills shortage here, yet skilled migrants continue to be arriving, as they have done for years.

You have a tough points scoring system that allows only the migrants you want, skilled people with qualifications...which is good, and yet, you still have shortages.

I have long thought the problem lies here with your after arrival policies.

The fact that as a business owner I was monitored on all levels until your department in Perth was satisfied with my efforts, -was a good thing. It ensured I did what I was brought here to do.

The problem for skilled migrants and trades people is that this just not happen.

A tree surgeon can come off the plane and become a taxi driver, there is no monitoring at all for this group. This is why you have the gaps you have now, and will continue to have unless you copy what you do with Business Skills.

Our New Migrant Assistance Web Based Business Idea.

Moving on, and as discussed I was very pleased that you would examine our new idea to assist new migrants coming to Australia.

The web site, as said is under construction at present, and should be finished by the end of September. As soon as the site is accessible on the net, I will let you know- even if certain areas are still under construction.

The basic idea is that all new migrants, myself included go through the same emotions on arrival, happiness about starting a new life here, but anxiety about how to get started.

Our site will offer and provide services such as the following;-

Meet migrants at airport / Offer Short Term Rental Accommodation / Customs Clear and Deliver their Household Effects / Organise Car Hire / Issue welcome Packs, with advice from everything from Medicare to obtaining a drivers Licence./ Explanations on how things work differently here - House Purchase / Shopping / Banking / Australian Sayings / Assistance on Preparing CVs/ How to Buy Businesses / Agency Referrals
The major drawcard will be the contacts board, our heading will be - **you are not alone**, we want to put new migrants and recent migrants in touch with each other.

I can tell you that from experience the most common reason for migrants going home from Australia is that they were lonely. If we can remove that we will remove a large amount of this annual exodus.

Your official website at www.immigration.gov.au/research/factsheets/emigration will show that 50,463 people left here in 2002-03, the highest ever number.

Imagine the amount of money that you as a Government spend processing all these people, only to lose them again. Also for the migrants its an expensive business.

So I wonder if we can present this working model and somehow work in partnership to bring this website into play that will give it a pivotal role in what we want to do as a business and what your aims are to keep migrants as a Government?

I look forward to hearing from you soon about my general comments and I will of course be in touch on the development of the above

Kind Regards
Bob Messenger

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