

Below is a Submission I made to the Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family.

I suggest that the ideas outlined below should also be taken into account by the inquiry looking into the CSTDA. Currently service providers (including HACC) are finding it very difficult to attract and retain good workers for the work they do caring for people with disabilities in the home and in groups homes and other facilities. I believe that there are many people overseas who would be very willing to take on these roles and, with suitable training, could perform the work admirably.

Australia's immigration rules need to be modified to permit this.

Katrina Clark

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 2:06 PM
Subject: Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

>I know the date for submissions into this enquiry has passed but I have
>just become aware of a brilliant idea operating in Canada which I think
>you're enquiry should consider.
>
> The Canadian Govt has introduced a class of visa whereby carers can be
> bought into Canada on a 2 year working visa if they live in a family's
> home and care for either the elderly, the disabled or children generally.
> Once they have "served" their 2 years, the carer and his.her family can
> apply for permanent residence in Canada!!
>
> see www.ci.gc.ca/english/pub/caregiver for more details.
>
> This would really ease the burden of care in Australia. It would take
> a > lot of the heat out of the childcare places debate as well as helping
> families caring for the elderly or the disabled.
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> I am the parent of a 9 year old girl who is severely intellectually
> and physically disabled. I need in-home help caring for my daughter both now
and in the long term. I have tried au pairs but they are so transient and
> are often here just to "party". I have tried out of home carers but they
> are terribly expensive and also are rarely prepared to come in just for
> the "high need" times like early morning.
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> I don't have time to write more but have plenty more to say.
>
> Katrina Clark