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To: The Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

This submission is in response to the invitation for public comment as part of the Committee's Inquiry into Australian Expatriates.

I would like all of my details in whole to be kept confidential thankyou

I am 29 years old and originally from Cronulla NSW. I moved to the UK in february 2002. I had met my (now) wife Helen, when she was on a working holiday in australia. Her visa had expired at that time so we both decided to come to the UK for a while. We have been living and working here since then. The inital plans were to do as much travelling as possible, especially with the strength of the pund sterling, and to see what happened. I have a degree from the university of sydney in nuclear medicine. i had heard that the health system in the uk was a bit of a shambles and there was quite alot of locum agency work available. We moved initaly to york and worked for 5 months, then spent that summer travelling around western europe. We also got engaged on this holiday. Came back to england and the locum work had dried up, i applied for numerous jobs and are now working for a private imaging company called alliance medical doing MRI and PET scanning. The company was originally set up as a mobile imaging company. A scanner is placed in a purpose built semi trailer and driven to various hospitals that cannot afford their own scanner, plugged into the mains and away you go. Doing alot of miles and getting to see alot of the country, especially in the north. Purchased a house in West Yorkshire in December 2002, moved in Feb 2003 We then got married in September 2003.

I am of Australian birth. I have obtained the ancestral work permit for the UK as my paternal grandfather was born in Newcastle upon Tyne. The plan is i have to stay for another 2 years and then i can apply for a British passport.

My wife is of English birth. We are getting all the information together at the moment to apply for a migration visa for Australia.

* I did not receive any information regarding advice available to you from Government and non-Government sources, either in Australia or overseas, prior to departure about what to expect in your planned movements and/or your rights and responsibilities in Australia after departure.

* i dont beleive my intial objectives have changed. I beleive to be able to work and travel in a foreign country will give my future employers a better rounded employee, whether it is in the UK or home.

* Do i think i belong here? Yes and no, i will never idetify myself as anything but australian. Saying that i do like living here. Im not too sure about London but i do like the north. I live in a fairly small village that is on the train line to Leeds and Bradford, i beleive it is the best of both worlds. Yorkshire dales right out the door and big cities 20 minutes away by train.

* NGO expat support is non existent where i am, i subscribe to the TNT magazine, which is aimed at southern hemisphere backpackers in london. It has a bit of news and sport from home and lots of cheap travel deals. you can get it for free in london, but i have to pay the postage to get it sent to me.

* My professional qualifications were highly regarded and had no problems working in the National Health Service.

* We do intend to return to Australia, it is a case of when. My wife absolutely loves it, if she could move her whole family we would be back tomorrow. It's a case of getting some more experience over here. And waiting for my British passport. I expect we will return in 2-3 years time. Maybe sooner if our situation changes. We both believe it is a better place to live. In the sense that you get more buying power for your money (whilst in Australia), and it is a better place to raise a family.

* whilst here I have had no problems with the health service. I have registered with a GP and dentist and are giving me free health care like any other resident.

* there is an issue with driving licences, once you apply for your British licence you have to hand in your Australian licence (and don't get it back). If your licence expires in Australia it is my understanding that you have to go through the whole theory and driving test again. Thankyou