



Hon. Mike Rann MP

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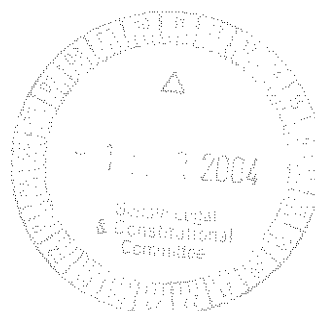
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Ms Louise Gell
The Secretariat
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Room S1.61, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gell

RE: Inquiry into Australian Expatriates

This submission by the South Australian Government is in response to the invitation for public comment as part of the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee's Inquiry into Australian Expatriates.

The South Australian Government is due to release its State Population Policy at the end of March, 2004. The policy's framework is built on the following four priorities:

1. improve the State's net migration performance by:
 - a) increasing the State's share of the national migration intake
 - b) *increasing the number of expatriates and potential interstate migrants returning or relocating to the State*
 - c) reducing the net outflow of young and skilled people
2. improve parents' abilities to balance the imperatives of work and family life to improve workforce participation and work-hours options
3. respond to the needs of, and improve the prospects and choices of, mature aged people
4. improve the skill level in the State and use to the full the talents possessed by our people.

In regard to this inquiry, 1b) is most relevant.

We realise that both migrants and expatriates are attracted to a strong economy, while if we create careers locally fewer young people will leave.

And it is here that South Australia has a good story to tell. In the recent study titled *Competitive Alternatives – The CEO's Guide to International Business Costs* conducted by one of the world's most respected financial firms, KPMG, Adelaide is rated the most cost competitive city to do business in the Asia-Pacific and tenth most cost competitive city to do business in the world.

Adelaide was rated in the top three locations in the world for key industry sectors including: automotive, food processing, metal components, plastics, advanced software development, web and multimedia development.

The study measures the combined impact of 27 significant cost components relating to labour, transportation, utilities, infrastructure and taxation costs.

In November last year the Certified Practising Accountants Australia (CPA) also released data showing that Adelaide had significant cost advantages over other Australian capitals.

The CPA research shows that:

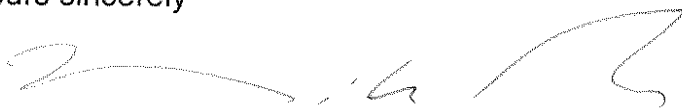
- Sydney's median house price of \$465,000 is more than double Adelaide's median of \$221,700
Melbourne and Brisbane were 62 and 30 percent higher respectively than Adelaide.
- Public transport is most expensive in Sydney, with an adult day trip priced at \$15 and only \$6.30 in Adelaide
- Dining out in Sydney and Melbourne costs between 50 and 66 percent more than in Adelaide
- An all-day car park in Sydney is \$40 – more than three times Adelaide's \$11 average
- South Australians spend about 50 percent less time travelling about the city and suburbs than their eastern states' counterparts.

These facts, together with quality education for children, and the overall advantages of the South Australian lifestyle, will form the basis of a bold new campaign to underpin ambitious migration targets.

As well as encouraging expatriates to return, emphasis will be placed on better using their skills, networks and experience in overseas markets. The concept of the State's population has to be broadened to encompass its diaspora – the global network of people who call themselves South Australians. This large pool of expatriates and the global networks they belong to provide enormous potential to generate promotional, migration, trade and investment opportunities for the State. South Australians' participation in State affairs and their contribution to the economy and community should not depend on their living in the State.

The policy will be available to download from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website (<http://www.premcab.sa.gov.au/index.html>) in early April. I invite all those interested to logon and read about how we will engage with, and encourage expatriate South Australians (both interstate and overseas) to return to the State, and how we hope to attract other talented Australians to South Australia.

Yours sincerely



MIKE RANN
Premier

26/2/2004