

Submission

As part of a wider research considering low skill migration, the Institute of Policy Studies has been undertaking some research on future workforce issues in relation to caregivers for the elderly. In association with this, the New Zealand Department of Labour has also been undertaking some research. The IPS research can be found at the following website:

http://ips.ac.nz/events/Ongoing_research/LowSkillMigration.html

The main research report from the Department of Labour is:

Department of Labour (2009) The future demand for paid caregivers in a rapidly ageing society. Wellington: Department of Labour.

And this can be found at:

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/LMI/workforce2020/ageing/paid-caregivers/index.asp>

As noted on our website, we held a joint Australian/New Zealand workshop entitled ‘The Future Supply of Caregivers for the Elderly: Should Australia and New Zealand look to the Pacific?’ at the Crawford School of Government at the Australian National University on November 18th 2009. Copies of the presentations given at this workshop are available on our website.

One of the conclusions we came to in our work was that, at least from a New Zealand perspective, it is essential for New Zealand and Australian policy makers to work together on labour supply issues in this sector given both the high level of integration of our labour markets and potential recruitment of migrants from a similar set of source countries. While we have now completed the research dimensions of this project, we are happy to engage with you as you consider workforce issues.