

I am writing in regards to "child care and elderly care issue concerning and affecting many Australian families

My wife is a PSA and working at an aged care home, she frequently tells me that there are plenty of people in these homes, who could and would have preferred to stay at home with their family, but due to time and work constraints, families tend to leave the elderly in aged care homes, when the environment at home would have been 100 times better in their last days.

I am a semi-retired pilot and have worked in many countries, so I am a bit surprised that the Australian government does not permit foreign domestic helpers to come and work in Australia, as is the case with other countries, including Canada.

Employing foreign domestic helpers from Asian countries (Philippines, Indonesia etc) under strict visa conditions would solve a lot of problems for working families with children and/or elderly at home.

My last job was in Hong Kong, here many families employ FDH to look after the kids, apartments, cook and/or take care of the elderly members of the family, these FDH are required to have undergone training on issues related to house keeping, basic childcare and dealing with elderly people, after undergoing through a selection process' medical checks through an agency (this should be eliminated in Australia, as the agencies tend to skim off fees), they are contracted for a period of 2 years, the salary is \$525 per month net, employer must provide accommodation (live in), food, ticket from and to home once every two years, pay government medical insurance and must have one day per week off or payment in lieu. Most of the FDH speak perfectly good English and tend to learn Chinese fairly quickly. At the end of two years they have to exit the country and if the contract is renewed, another visa application must be made before returning back, this prevents the FDH from seeking to exploit any permanent visa facilities in their country of employment, like in Hong Kong, if you are employed and a permanent resident for a continuous period of 5 years, you are entitled for permanent residency there, but since FDH have to exit and get a new contract every two years, they are not entitled for this.

These terms are very good for these FDH, as their salary goes a long way to support their families back home.

So this kind of facility would help the Australian families secure the care services at an affordable price, reduce the government burden associated with subsidies for child and elderly care, the kids and the elderly would live in a good and loving home environment and the FDH would make a decent living (in comparison to home salary rates) and support their families back home. Plus the FDH do tend to spend money on their days off work and this would inject some money into the local economy as well.

So not certain why the Australian government can't look into this process, when surrounding Asian countries can provide a large number of suitable FDH at an affordable cost and with an increase in living costs, more and more couples need to work for two salaries to meet growing expenses, a live-in help would certainly remove a lot of concerns and burden for a working couple.

Thank you for sparing time to review my submission,

Yours sincerely,

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