

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you out of concern for South Australia's ailing population growth, increased net interstate migration and falling migration program outcomes and to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss this in detail.

[In 2012 our population grew by 16,500](#), whilst in the 12 months to December 31, 2015 our population growth fell to 11,200, this also included 5000 people left South Australia. Unless action is taken now, based on current trends it is likely that South Australia's population growth will continue to fall below 10,000 people in 2017 which will have long term, ongoing economic ramifications.

The good news is that there are very simple and easy remedies for these dire problems.

In conjunction with South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES) I have raised approximately \$60,000 to conduct economic research into various aspects of the migration program in South Australia and will make these findings available to you. This includes the introduction of a semi-skilled program in South Australia as well as changes to the student visa program, temporary graduate visas, business visas and other long term temporary visas all of which will provide an economic stimulus to SA.

One thing is abundantly clear, the current structure of Australia's migration program does not meet the unique and individual needs of South Australia.

Even if we look at the State migration criteria, it is very challenging. One recent example is where a family of 3 from the UK who want to permanently migrate to South Australia as this is where Kathryn's dad and step sister live with their families. Kathryn, her husband and 7 year old son want to live in Adelaide. Kathryn is 42 years old and a hairdresser with over 15 years' experience. Regrettably however, she is unable to be nominated by the SA Government through the chain migration provisions as this is only available to those with a bachelor degree qualification. Kathryn meets all other State eligibility criteria other than having a bachelor degree and regrettably there are no bachelor degree qualifications available in Hairdressing, yet Kathryn and her family would make a very valuable contribution to the SA economy through their consumption expenditure. She does however, satisfy the eligibility criteria to migrate to the NT and as such, despite having a job in demand in South Australia, significant experience and very strong family connections it is likely that she will migrate to the Northern Territory. We need to make it easier for skilled migrants with family connections and significant experience to migrate to South Australia where their [occupations are deemed to be in demand State wide](#).

[The latest ABS statistics ending December 2015 ABS released at the end of June 2016 highlights my concern](#). SA's population growth was 0.7% against a national average of 1.4%. This represents an increase of only 11,200 over that 12 month period out of Australia's total growth of 326,100 people. This highlights the importance of a specially designed migration program to boost population, create jobs and to increase consumption expenditure and economic growth. Of Australia's total growth, regional growth including SA, Tas, NT and the ACT only contributed 19,400 of Australia's total population growth of 326,100, whilst our four gateway cities NSW, Vic, Qld and WA grew by a combined 306,700. Victoria leads the way with growth of 109,800 and the ACT recorded 1.4% growth, double that of SA. Based on these numbers it takes South Australia approximately 10 years to experience the same level of economic growth and development in construction, new jobs and consumption expenditure that Victoria experiences every 13 months.

In addition to this, Net Interstate Migration (NIM) loss is also a significant concern. Since 2002 over 50,000 people (net) have left SA. [From 1 Jan 2015 to 31 December 2015, we lost 5000 people](#) the highest number for decades. [This is a significant increase on the average number of people that departed SA from 2004-05 to 2013-14 \(3262\).](#)

My recommendations for increasing population growth and migration outcomes are as follows;

1. Allow greater flexibility, including the individual assessment of the potential benefits that a skilled migrant would bring to South Australia, where they are unable to meet current published guidelines.
2. South Australia should actively participate in the [Safe Haven Enterprise visa \(subclass 790\)](#) and seek to be included in the [regional classification](#) guidelines.
3. South Australia needs to amend its [relationship register guidelines for spouse visas](#).
4. South Australia should amend its work experience provisions for State nomination to include recognised volunteer work.

As evidenced by the SACES research, a carefully targeted migration program does not take jobs, it creates jobs. Every job undertaken by a migrant in South Australia creates another due to consumption expenditure. This research also contains numerous recommendations and supporting research into the benefits of each recommendation.

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Mark Glazbrook MMIA

Managing Director | Registered Migration Agent Number 0100185