

Submission: Australia's skilled migration program

“The projected cumulative cost of lost productivity associated with psychological distress, hospitalisations, and suicide over the period March 2020 - March 2025 is estimated to be \$114 billion, which includes \$11.3 billion in lost productivity among the youth population.” (Atkins, 2020).

There is a growing demand for skilled nursing workforce to meet the challenges brought upon by COVID 19 pandemic. It has been widely accepted that mental illness has been compounded in effect due to pandemic. However, shortage of skilled workforce in mental health services have caused rapid staff turnover and fatigue amongst the existing workforces. Ensuring access to care and providing high standards of care requires the input of skilled nursing workforce. graduate nurses who are already completing their graduate year in mental health facilities should be supported. International graduates who are already working in mental health settings should be encouraged and supported to continue providing services and prevent skill drain from mental health facilities.

Ref:

Atkins, J. (2020). *The impact of COVID 19 on the mental wealth of Australia*.
<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/09/02/the-impact-of-covid19-on-the-mental-wealth-of-australia.html>

Submitted by: [REDACTED]