



Our reference: GZC



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A 159 Gawler Place
ADELAIDE SA 5000
www.lsc.sa.gov.au
Postal Address:
GPO Box 1718
ADELAIDE SA 5001
DX 104

T (08) 8111 5596
F (08) 8111 5594
TTY 133 677 then ask for 1300 366 424
Legal Help Line 1300 366 424



Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee On Migration
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2000

migration@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Cullen,

I refer to your letter of 6 April 2018, received by me on 13 April.

The Legal Services Commission is South Australia's largest legal assistance provider. In the 2016-2017 financial year, the Legal Services Commission provided assistance in the form of advice and information to 869 migration clients. The advice covered such topics domestic violence migration law, offshore partner visas, permanent protection visas and humanitarian visas.

The Legal Services Commission has only limited contact with migration agents. On considering the terms of reference for the inquiry, the Legal Services Commission would like to recommend the Committee also consider issues relating to compensation for potential migrants who have suffered financial loss due to the negligent or fraudulent behaviour of migration agents. Regulatory schemes for other professional groups who handle large sums of overseas money, such as travel agents, provide industry based compensation schemes for clients left out of pocket by the inappropriate activities of their agent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Gabrielle Z Canny
Director