

From:
To: [Committee, Migration \(REPS\)](#)
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: Migration submission
Date: Wednesday, 12 November 2025 10:10:16 AM

To; JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION
Good Morning my name is Donald Frederick Stewart

I am 85 years ,Level 3 Aged Care ,I have been waiting 2 years for a Hip Replacement & no date yet despite my GP advising on my declining condition.

I live alone in a 4 bedroom 2 bath home on the Sunshine Coast where there are many old people & old people in similar circumstances

The new LNP Govt in Qld advised that they would be getting the Private Hospitals to help with the back-log for elective surgery , however the Log Jam appears to be the lack of available beds in Rehabilitation & Aged Care for after surgery. Accomodation is scarce & expensive here on the Sunshine Coast ,I see a proper review of the Oz Carer Visas as a Win Win Win situation

Executive Summary

- Summarise the key points:
 - Australia faces a **critical aged care workforce shortage** and rising aged care costs.
 - Hospital bed block due to lack of aged care places costs taxpayers nearly **\$1 billion annually** and delays elective surgeries.
 - Existing Carer Visas (Subclass 116 & 836) are **too restrictive and slow**, with processing times of **7+ years**.
 - A **Live-In Carer Visa Stream** would:
 - Enable qualified carers to live with older Australians.
 - Reduce pressure on hospitals and aged care facilities.
 - Improve safety and wellbeing for seniors.
 - Leverage cultural values of respect for elders.

Background and Evidence

- **Aged Care Costs:**
 - Residential care RAD cap increased to **\$750,000**; fees up **30–38%**.
 - Home care co-payments for self-funded retirees up to **80%** for everyday services.
 - Lifetime contribution cap: **\$130,000**. [\[vicpakconsultant.com\]](#), [\[agedcarema...asy.com.au\]](#)
- **Hospital Bed Block:**
 - **2,500 elderly patients** stuck in hospitals; average wait **150 days** for aged care placement.
 - Equivalent to removing three major hospitals from the system. [\[wis.it.com\]](#), [\[centredisa...ort.com.au\]](#)

- **Workforce Shortage:**
 - **110,000 additional carers needed by 2030.**
 - Current visa pathways fail to meet demand. [britbrief.co.uk]
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Policy Proposal: Live-In Carer Visa Stream

a) Visa Type & Duration

- Temporary visa (3–5 years) with pathway to permanent residency.

b) Eligibility

- Certified aged care/disability care qualifications.
- Health, character, and English checks.
- Sponsorship by an Australian citizen/permanent resident aged 65+ with assessed care needs and a spare bedroom.

c) Conditions & Safeguards

- Compliance with Fair Work standards.
 - Regular audits and reporting.
 - Mandatory elder rights training.
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Cultural Competence and Safety Benefits

- Many cultures place a **high value on respect for elders**, reducing risk of neglect or abuse.
 - Recruiting carers from these backgrounds enhances dignity and trust in care relationships.
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Expected Outcomes

- Reduced hospital bed block and faster post-surgery discharge.
 - Lower aged care costs for semi/self-funded retirees.
 - Improved quality of life and safety for older Australians.
 - Enhanced workforce supply and cultural diversity in care.
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Recommendations

- Pilot program in high-demand regions.
- Initial cap of 5,000 visas, reviewed after 12 months.
- Collaboration with Home Affairs, Health and Aged Care, and Carers Australia.

Thanking you in anticipation

Don Stewart