

From: Darren Nolan

To: heidi@thinkingaustralia.com

Subject: Issues With 457's and Immigration

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Heidi

As per our numerous and frustrating telephone calls in relation to the recent changes to the 457's I have another example of the absolute stupidity with regards to trying to transfer an employee who is currently working as a truck driver on a current 457.

Employee approached us and is currently on a 457 expiry date 2010, this was renewed prior to the July change. He likes the company that he is working for and has been there for 2 years. He wants to come and work for us and we are happy to employ him, the problem is:

1. We can not transfer his 457 as a Heavy Vehicle Truck Driver
2. If he applies for an RSMS he has to be working for the company for a period of 12 months, so therefore he would have to apply to the current company and would be contracted to that company for 2 years

We employ over 220 people in a regional community, it is no secret that the heavy vehicle truck driving industry is struggling to find enough staff. I am totally frustrated by the handling of these issue. These are jobs that AUSTRALIANS are not applying for these are jobs that are critical to the Australian economy. I fail to see how it can be so difficult for employers to do something as simple as transfer a visa holder to another company.

This whole 457 and Heavy vehicle driver issue is a major problem and to be honest I have gone to the point of turning potential people away from our company because of these issues. We are happy to offer permanency to these people, they get paid the same level as all other staff this just does not make sense.

Thanks and kind regards

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