

CONTRACT

08 May 2017

Hon Michael Woodhouse

NZ Parliament

Dear Sir,

Re Current proposal for immigration changes.

As I current business owner with my company that I started some 40 years, have won Westpac Business of the Year Award twice for Warehousing & Distribution as well as occupied the chair for the Logistic Cluster Group at Manukau for a number of years I feel I am qualified in the position to express my extreme concerned at the current talk of changes to the status of immigrants and their right to work permits, gain residency and the hike in the salary which will impact companies such as my own and through to farmers milking cows.

I have no doubt that many other companies are in a similar position to that of myself, in that we work and plan our business around the laws of the land on the day. We take the business risk to set up and expand our companies based on the understanding that the rules are stable and we can plan with some certainty.

9(2)(a)

To then open up the paper one morning and find that all the rules are changing due to a political knee jerk action just to possibly appease many who do not understand the investment that has been made in providing employment and that it currently appears to be retrospectively. This makes no sound sense and undermines the credibility of the government of the day.

However the fact of today's workforce is that the majority of people that now apply for employment are immigrants. A year ago I may have received 100 plus answers to adverts for staff and a few would be New Zealanders, recently it has become plus or minus 10 and all would be immigrants. In fact I enquired through the local MSD office and after 2 weeks approximately they could not provide anyone even to interview, then the information was passed onto another office and with no result and this was for a store person. Certainly not a person that any warehouse could consider paying \$50k per year.

I currently employ some 7 staff that would be classified as immigrants. 9(2)(a)

In fact in looking at those that I am employing I see that these people are of a caliber that I have failed to find over the years from the standard employees that

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were available. They mostly hold degrees. Are motivated and driven and I believe a good reason for our continued success as is being shown in the growth. It takes me 2-3 years of training to have these employees fully trained and up to the required standard we require in a fast moving and systems processed company and now it would appear that the proposed change will undermine the work that has been done by both myself, the employees that have arrived from overseas, invested in NZ and committed themselves to assisting in the growth of this company and of this country. Sure they are doing it for themselves as well, but they are people that have proven that they are prepared to work hard, take a risk and gain an education. All the qualities that NZ needs as a country, that is competing in the international market requires. In addition they come here not wishing to be a burden on the state but to grow and develop. Given this position I totally fail to understand why both these people and we employers are to be penalized. Should the number of people that are both returning are immigrating to NZ start to get out of balance then the answer is adjust the numbers of those arriving, not those that are here and have already made the commitment.

I do believe the government needs to look hard at what NZ does need in way of immigrants and with better consultation and consideration of all those of us that are affected and with those of us that are struggling to gain the right people with the attributes that we require to help both our companies and in turn the country. Please take into account that we hire those that we need, that will and can met the requirements of the position on offer. And most of all be rational in the approach that is to be taken and give us committed employers something we can plan and work and plan with in certainty.

I thank you for your time on this matter.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Managing Director

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