

Date: 20 May 2017

- Immigration Changes  
I can understand some things needed to change, Auckland is bursting (housing, motorways etc).
- In the South (Otago/Southland) unemployment is around 2% or less, we need migrants to run our farms properly.
- Migrants are generally very skilled, great temperament for working with animals, reliable.
- The National 3 year rule is going to have a very negative effect on migrants wanting to come to NZ and work on our farms. It is already having a negative impact. My migrant staff are looking their at options now (going to Canada). - if they don't get the "work to residency".
- After 3 years must leave NZ for minimum 1 year, and effectively no family because of health and education.
- We will not attract the best migrants to NZ, will constantly be changing staff on farm. Risks will increase for farmers (health and safety, animal welfare, environmental) due to lack of staff continuity.
- We struggle to get Kiwi employees in our area (see below). In our patch most dairy workers are foreign. The Clutha Valley Primary School roll is approximately 30% foreign (2/3 of these are on work visa) all of whom are from dairy farms.
- **Propose:**  
**In areas with very low unemployment (say less than 4-5% unemployment) Migrants can stay in NZ and bring their families (health and education inclusive). Work Visas would need to be market checked at each renewal, but would be issued for a minimum of 2 years to ease workload on Immigration NZ. Work Visa would be area and industry specific.**
- Example of recent advertising

Last week a advert I was running closed after 10 days for a Dairy Farm Assistant.

Below are a summary the reply's, my only Kiwi applicant, she is 28, I rang her straight away when she applied. After a conversation it became very clear she is not suitable (being very kind).

The summary of the applicants are is follows:

Kiwi 1

India 5

Sri Lanka 1

South Africa 1

France 1

Nepal 1

Argentina 1 x couple

Uruguay 1 x couple – just want work over winter months

Some are already in the country and have or want a work visa, and some would apply for a work visa upon getting a job offer so they could come to NZ.

Absent from the list is applicants from the Philippines, this is very unusual and I would normally expect around 20-30 (when doing labour market checks to re-issue existing work visas). The Filipinos are very scared of the proposed changes and already looking elsewhere.

I went to a seminar organised by our local Filipino community last week, at it and speaking was s 9(2)(g)(i) a Licenced Immigration Advisor from Manawatu, he said that Canada were welcoming them in and after 1-2 years giving them residency. He was unsure where NZ was going to source its (quality) staff from into the future. He carefully stated this was not just a farming issue.

None of my above applicants have any NZ dairy experience, except the kiwi which has a few months.

None of them are suitable, so I will re advertise the position. I really want a Kiwi, but not sure where from at this stage.

I also have the job listed on the Clutha District Council website – no replies over the 3 weeks so far. I have also spoken to Work and Income Balclutha 9(2)(a) who is looking for me also, no leads so far.

In Otago/Southland we have less than 2% unemployment. Where do we get good staff from now...? My 2 junior positions are on mid \$50's.

s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)  
(a)