

Setting an immigration policy

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11 March 2008

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- Who do we want ?
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What are your interests ?

Migration is a global issue

- Australia, Canada, NZ
- USA
- UK, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden
- 6 million refugees
- An 'unstoppable' flow

Is Australia's immigration policy
working ?

Is Australia's immigration policy working ?

- Migrants sought for many years
- 1 in 4 migrants
- Strong economy, worries about de-population of rural areas
- Skill shortages

Australian inflows 2006

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Family related | 45,000 |
| Work related | 97,000 & rising |
| Humanitarian | 12,500 (2004) |

But

- Worries about over crowding eg Melbourne & Sydney *The Age*,
- Recent (Howard era) worries re asylum seekers

Is Britain's immigration policy
working

UK's labour inflows 2005 (est)

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Highly skilled/permits | 106,000 |
| EEA | 35,000 |
| A8/Worker Reg'n Schemes | 195,000 |
| Working Holiday Makers | 20,000 |
| Seasonal/sector/domestics | 35,000 |
| UK Ancestry | 8,000 |
| Ministers of Religion | 500 |
| Refugees | 10,000 |
| Total | 411,000 |

While

- 360,000 people **left the UK** to live overseas in 2003
- Two thirds were UK nationals
- The **net inflow** to the UK was just over 220,000

Migration in the UK

- Strong economic growth, now easing
- Migration helped
 - Ease skill shortages, underpin public services
 - Hold down inflation
 - Strengthen innovation
 - Strengthen growth
 - Social diversity
- Concerns re
 - illegal entrants
 - Pressure on schools & social services
 - Worries about crime
 - Less employer investment in training, innovation
- Migration drives over half of the projected population growth to 2030
- Substitute for addressing unemployed ?

In the US

- Long pro active history
- Foundation of HE
- Easing hi tech skill shortages
- Fill many low paid jobs
- Large numbers of illegal migrants

Why do we want immigrants ?

Why do we want immigrants ?

- Skills – chefs, hairdressers, health workers, S&T, finance etc
- Innovation eg Science & technology, HE
- Cheap labour – agriculture, cleaning, child care, mining
- Eases inflationary pressures
- Sustainable communities (eg rural Victoria)
- Happy families – marriage, reunions
- Humanitarian

Why not open our borders ?

Concerns & complaints about

- Congestion
- Pressure on schools
- Pressure on welfare services
- Higher house prices
- Welfare dependency
- Ethnic tension
- Illegal immigrants
- Crime

Who do we want and why?

Who do we all want?

Economic

- Highly skilled
- Entrepreneurs & investors
- To fill low wage & undesirable jobs
- The rich

Social

- Family reunion,
- Humanitarian
- Retirees ??

Short term

- Students
- Working holidaymakers
- Inter company transfers

Undesirables

- Illegal entrants
- Visa over-stayers

In the UK

- There were over 80 entry routes
- Now 5 Tiers
 - Highly skilled/entrepreneurs
 - Skilled
 - Low skilled on temp basis
 - Students
 - Youth mobility, holidaymakers, artistic etc
- Plus EU/EEA
- Plus refugees, family reunions

Entry depends on

- Points
- Licensed sponsors
- Specialist (MAC) advice
- Bonds being considered

How do we decide how many ?

Helpful statistics & research

- Little workforce planning
- Problems defining skills & shortages
- Indicators include vacancies, unemployment, redundancies, wages, overtime, rising, prices, training, surveys
- But data only at very aggregate level
- Judgements needed, employer/sector advice (lobbying?)

Also

- Past trends & outcomes
- International trends
- Forecasts

- Links to broader eg social issues

- Impact on source countries

What about policy after arrival?

The importance of integration

- Happier immigrant
- More productive worker
- Higher tax take
- Reduced illegality
- Lower demands on welfare etc
- Better community relations
- Moral responsibility

What are the priorities ?

What is needed

- Basic health
- Basic language
- Access to obligations, services, help & community
- Understanding local culture

- Establishing self confidence & independence

- Accreditation of skills & qualifications
- Understanding work place
- Employment

- Deporting (serious) criminals

Who should deliver integration ?

Who should deliver integration ?

- Rights and responsibilities
 - The government & agencies
 - Sub contract to community groups
 - Employers
- Treat as individuals or in ethnic/social groups
- Sanctions for non compliance

Citizenship next step

- Time serving
- Tests
- Conditionality

New UK settlement policy

- Entry via Tiers as temporary residents
- After 5 years (2 yrs for dependents) apply to be probationary citizens
- Show economic contribution, test progress in English, and knowledge of life in the UK, no serious criminal record
- After 1-5 years apply to be full citizens or permanent residence & re tested
- Community service to speed process
- All to contribute to community fund to pay for services

What are the related issues that are often overlooked ?

Some related issues

- The impact on source countries ?
- The impact on marginalised workers ?
- The short & longer term impact on population growth & services ?
- Existing illegal immigrants ?

What about the source countries?

- Biggest impact on small, esp Caribbean & pacific, countries
- Also S Africa
- Philippines export policy ?
- Mainly health, education, social care and cheap labour

Issues re source countries

- Weakens (health/care) services
- Who pays for their training
- Remittances
- Incentives to train
- UK restricts health recruitment

- Individual freedom & rights
- Would they work in poor areas if they stayed?

- Returnees
- Technology, investment (housing) & skills transfer

- Off shore training centres (eg C'wealth idea)

What about marginalised workers?

- Crowded out of jobs
- Employers lower incentive to train
- Higher unemployment

Wider impact

- Housing now & in future
- Schooling now & in future
- Social services now & in future
- Land & congestion now & in future
- Ethnic tension now & in future
- Crime now & in future

And what about illegal immigrants

- Failed asylum seekers
 - Illegal entrants
 - Trafficked
 - Visa overstayers
 - Children & families
-
- Use camps, publicise difficulties in source countries
 - Deportation
 - Amnesties
-
- Stronger border controls, police, burden of proof

How do you know if the policy is
working ?

How do you know if the policy is working ?

- Employer satisfaction
- Press & community reaction
- Research & evaluation

What are your priorities

- Deciding who ?
 - Deciding how many ?
 - Integration
 - Policing borders ?
 - Deporting 'illegals'
 - Better evidence ?
-
- Political judgement has to prevail ?