

8th March 2023
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into *the Role of Permanent Migration in Nation Building*. Our video submission is informed by members of MYAN's Youth Ambassadors Network (YAN) and by our work with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds across Australia more broadly. The submission draws the lived experiences of these young people in regards to diverse migration challenges.

About MYAN

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN) is the national peak body representing the rights and interests of young people aged 12-24 from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Our vision is that all young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are supported, valued and thriving in Australia.

MYAN works in partnership with young people, government, and non-government agencies across the youth, settlement and multicultural sectors at the state and territory and national levels to ensure the particular needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are recognised in policy and service delivery.

MYAN provides expert policy advice to government, delivers sector development activities, and supports the development of young people's leadership and advocacy skills so they can have their voices heard at the regional, state, and national levels.

Key Findings

The key findings from MYAN's video submission are outlined below.

Challenges Faced By Young Migrants Entering the Labour Force

- Many employment opportunities are unavailable to temporary migrants in comparison to their permanent migrants or citizen peers.
- Because of the temporary nature of particular visa types, many young migrants are anxious about being able to establish meaningful networks and whether this puts them at a disadvantage in the Australian community.
- Language proficiency can mean that well-educated and well-qualified migrants have to resort to professions they are overqualified for.
- There are disproportions in healthcare and other services as well.

Strengthening Economic Participation of Young Migrants

- Make it easier to recognise overseas qualifications and work experience.
- More newly arrived migrants need support and awareness about employment services and working rights, including labour exploitation laws.
- Review laws and regulations regarding employment for temporary visa holders-including international students-including caps on employment hours..
- Create culture of harnessing young migrants' skills and capabilities in meaningful employment rather than prioritising for casual labour only.
- Encourage corporations to be champions of diversity and inclusion, which includes fair recruitment practices and not discriminating based on visa status.
- Support young migrants with entrepreneurial activities and the start-up of small business to support financial independence and meaningful contributions to the economy.
- Provide clear employment pathways and opportunities after obtaining relevant education in Australia.

Regional Migration Challenges

- Migrating to certain states/territories such as Tasmania is easier for obtaining permanent migration but are lacking the necessary infrastructure and services to accommodate for a population increase.
- It is difficult to find appropriate support services for migrants/refugees in regional areas.

Improving Regional Migration

- Implement anti-discrimination policies and establish/improve settlement support services for regional migration centres, focusing on issues such as language lessons and legal counsel to aid their integration to their communities.
- To strengthen regional migration, improve the infrastructure such as education and expand services in regional areas to attract and be able to accommodate an increase population and advertise migrant support services as well as have more multicultural events in regional areas.

MYAN would be pleased to provide further information on any part of this submission to assist the Committee.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. Rana Ebrahimi

MYAN National Manager