Managing Australia’s Migrant Intake

Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc (CMCF) is pleased to take this opportunity to provide comments to the released discussion paper to consider a range of issues that impact the current migration program and planning into the future.

Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc is the recognised a Peak body representing more than 110 ethnic and associated community organisation in the ACT and its surrounding areas. CMCF was established in December 2005 to have a unified voice and a single peak body to promote the common interests and articulate the purpose and direction of the multicultural community in the ACT. The Forum is established to act as the multicultural voice of ACT.

CMCF recognises that Australia is a successful migration nation with generations of migrants who have come to settle here and contributed to the success of this country.

CMCF is supportive of the principles of better integration of migrants into Australian society. We take this opportunity to offer our support to the Settlement Council of Australia in its response to the discussion paper.

CMCF takes this opportunity to comment on the following issues impacting on the family and skilled migration:

CMCF wishes to emphasise that while the community at large recognises that the importance of English acquisition may form part of the assessment for migration. We asked that consideration be given to review the requirements and the level that the English test and the longer residency requirements, especially impacting on the Family Migration Program, in particular, the labour participation and employment.

The level of English efficiency required for skilled migrants should be reviewed and assessed in accordance to the type of skilled migration program. We urge the Government to work with the communities and the industries to develop a more flexible and practical Language tests that form the basic requirements rather than above what is needed.

CMCF urge the composition of the Migration Programs for Family reunion be increased to take into consideration of the potential high level student migration that will bring with higher education and skilled employment prospects for Australia as we move into international / Global economic and free trade benefits.

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Yours sincerely

Chin Wong

Chair

Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc.