

We The People

Program 117

Migrant Workers and Population



The Australian Industry group is a peak body in Australia representing more than 60,000 businesses across a wide sector and diverse groups. The enterprises the Australian Industry Group represents employ more than 1 million Australians. They claim they are an organisation committed to helping Australian industry with a focus on building competitive and sustainable industries through global integration, skills development, productive and flexible workplace relations, infrastructure development and innovation. They claim their legitimacy comes also from their role in and connection with the broader community. Well I'm not sure about all this. Whenever I see an exhaustive list of feel good motherhood statements I get a little suspicious and very cautious. Of course the very best motherhood statements come from bureaucracy and government where, as Sir Humphrey Appleby says....."Minister, we are measured on activity, not on results".

So the Australian Industry Group has called for an increase in Australian migration from 190,000 to 220,000 people driven from an increase in our Permanent Migrant Worker programme. That's an increase of 30,000 people a year and stands in stark contrast to the grand total of 30,000 alone just 20 years ago. Now bear in mind the current unemployment rate increased in December by 3,400 to a total of 713,000 Australians. That's nearly three quarters of a million Australians out of work and rising.

Now the Australian Industry Group says that they believe more migrants are needed to "support positive population growth". They claim the natural growth rate is very low but this is demonstrably untrue. For each of the past thirty-six years births have exceeded deaths in Australia by over 100,000 so we have a natural population increase by over 100,000 every year without any migration at all. Surely it's not the role of this business group to use their numbers to increase the country's population. The current level of immigration at times makes me feel like a stranger in my own homeland and an alien in my daily travels and confused at times when speaking on the phone. This unnatural massive dilution in society is nothing more than social engineering directly at our expense because the changes are far too rapid in society to allow for proper integration and to ensure our history and culture is valued and maintained.

Skilled migration should only be used to attract skills not possible to find in Australia. In fact we should be looking to train our own people to fill the need because contrary to the belief of Labor and the Liberals an ever increasing Australian population is pure insanity. All it does is to place further pressure on the environment, social support, infrastructure and ultimately our standard of living. Surely the era of "populate or perish" is well and truly over as most of the civilised world has discovered. It is simple stupidity to cut down all the forests, pave all the hills and dredge all the water ways and oceans in the name of progress. It makes no sense to dig up and sell the earth for short term gain and it makes no sense to reduce our quality of life. This is exactly what increasing population's cause. In Australia today 2.3 million Australians are living below the poverty line and that includes 575,000 children.

Population growth doesn't stack up at all except for businesses that want to sell more widgets or for the importation of poorly made goods which are often not fit for purpose. Never ending increasing demand is simply unsustainable and illogical. A stable population is far more likely to find a sweet spot in volume and self sufficiency and isn't that what we want for our children and their children and for our wildlife and ecological health. For the life of me I cannot see why growing Australia's population is healthy or good in any way and I denounce this industry group where it chooses to use its political muscle to frame government population policy. Just like Gold Coast City Council and others, their new year's resolution should be to base their plans on truly sustainable platforms, citizen certainty and to listen to the people. Short term thought bubbles simply don't work and rapid migration is not in our long term interest.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley