



Positive signs for hopeful Sri Lankan migrants Down Under

Post Australian migration successes, as found by Career Development Centre's Survey.

As a leading migration consultancy firm Career Development Centre has achieved another chapter in its story of success. The organization had conducted a survey for the years 2005 and 2006 on the families who had migrated through them to Australia. And the findings have become a testimony to the creditable record that CDC maintains as an establishment committed to achieving the success of their clients. The survey looked in to matters of employment on post migration, with special focus on Doctors, Motor Mechanics, Managers and so on. A discussion with CDC's dynamic and dedicated proprietor/MD Unee Samantha Pathirage revealed much on the subject which shows positive signs for hopeful migrants in Sri Lanka.

Question: What made you conduct a survey like this?

Answer: This has actually been a long-standing requirement which wasn't executable due to constraints on time availability and other difficulties. Getting in touch with our clients residing in Australia and collation of the data took some time. But I'm quite glad that we were able to accomplish it, as it will certainly prove beneficial to current applicants who are very keen on getting an idea on the post settlement scenario in Australia. Many are anxious over matters like schooling and employability which are main concerns.

Q: What has this survey revealed? Can you explain briefly?

A: It revealed some interesting details on the employability factor, and since we concentrate mainly on professionals I'll start there. We interviewed several Doctors, who obtained the Regional Sponsored Visa (SIR visa) to different non-metropolitan regions in Australia, and they said that during the first 6-8 months they had to do temporary jobs (odd jobs) and that they kept on applying to suitable positions. And now most of them have got appointments in rural hospitals to practice as General Practitioners and what is most gladdening is that they were admitted in to the practice without the Australian Medical Council (AMC) registration. This registration is not mandatory to practice in rural regions and this is a very positive sign for doctors who have aspirations of practicing in Australia. The salaries they are receiving are high scale despite being in rural areas. And the Doctors we spoke to have begun studying to obtain AMC registration, in order to further their career scope. This will certainly better their opportunities, and it must also be mentioned that the AMC registration is a flexible process. They also said that their fluency of English was to their advantage in employability. They are now properly settled and faring very well.

Some migrants who sought employment as Hairdressers had needed more effort to be established due to the difference of standards between here and Australia. Motor Mechanics are also in high demand and we spoke with some who migrated with the hope of employment in that field. Scope for good income is high and some have found employment whereas some are yet to get settled. The level of English proficiency has been a factor in this respect, and their weak language skills have been a drawback. And therefore we got to know how English language skills play a decisive role. The other professionals who got settled found employment within 3-6 months and even told of job advancements where they were able to go to better paying establishments.

These are some of the successful cases in the post migration story that our survey revealed.

Q: What other fields and professions have scope in Australia?

A: Opportunities can be found for a range

comes to job hunting. Job vacancies are regularly advertised in newspapers, websites which also give information on job agencies and current job vacancies in every trade. Employers can be reached very efficiently through these means. It is not troublesome; job hunting is not a hassle.

Q: Does CDC offer assistance in the post migration settlement process?

A: Well, CDC offers very consistent guidelines which have proven very helpful to our clients. We have many gratified clients who have complimented us on our services and the level of success they have reaped. We provide a post settlement kits which set out details and guidelines, and also they are in a position to network with CDC.

Q: Can a migrant who gets a Temporary Residence visa be assured of a Permanent resident visa in Australia?

A: A Temporary Residence visa is granted for a duration period of three years. To be eligible for a resident visa you are required to provide one year of employment. However it takes minimum of two years to be granted resident visa status.

Q: Could you give us an idea about whether a migrant could expect the authorities of Australia to be supportive?

A: The regional governments are supportive of our efforts and inform the migrants on job opportunities, with the new policy changes, better, more positive results are seen.

90% of the regional visas are restrictive of metropolitan areas. And the most preferred State by our clients is South Australia which allows settlement in Adelaide, its main city.

Q: Do you look in to the numerous aspects of a client's application process?

A: We observe all migration principles and guidelines and our knowledge of the many criteria involved. We assess an applicant's eligibility and then proceed from that point onwards. We take the effort to minimize the client's burden in the application process.

We have an online application facility, and this is especially helpful for applicants who would otherwise have to travel from far away. An applicant applied on-line is asked to come over to the CDC office only upon the positive pre-eligibility assessment outcome. Every application is screened before being asked to come over, and this saves a lot of trouble to most applicants.

Q: What recognition does CDC have as a migration agency in Australia?

A: Offshore agents like CDC gets an overseas agent's ID number, most are under the



Unee Samantha Pathirage

misconception that every agent has to be registered with the Migration Agent Registration Authority (MARA) in order to be a credible, legitimate operator. The truth is only the migration agents who operate in Australia must compulsorily get registered with MARA and agents who operate outside Australia do not have to be registered.

Q: How has the settlement process been for families who migrated through CDC? Any feed back on the aspect of adjustment?

A:- adjustment to a new culture and new way of life is always a challenge, and from what we've come to learn through our survey, children have a better time in adjusting to the Australian culture than adults. Kids pick up the language and accent quite early and adjust to the new system quite well. And migrant families benefit from the free education offered by government schools. Although a temporary visa does not entitle them to other benefits, hopeful migrants can be glad that free school education is a perk they can enjoy.

Q: Has Australian employment been remarkably beneficial to migrants?

A: It has been very rewarding as our survey revealed to us. Some have been able visit Sri Lanka during New Year and holidays and some bachelors have even begun building houses in Sri Lanka for their future advancement. Their level of savings has improved dramatically, and regular remittances to Sri Lanka have become possible. These are indicators that the earnings in Australia are quite high scale.

Q: What are the new developments that CDC can speak of? What new assets have you developed as a leading firm in the field?

A: We are proud to say that we have now started a counterpart in Australia. It is located in Queensland, Lake Street, Cairns. It operates as an information centre. And it will prove to be a great asset. And through our many years of commitment to success in the field of migration consultancy our base of satisfied clients has become one of our main strengths. Gratified clients who are comfortably settled in Australia can be networked in order to assist future hopeful migrants. This net work will prove to be a great strength to us in the years ahead and will surely become a support network, which can help in seeking employment and job opportunities. Commitment to achieving success for our clients have been rewarding and today our gratified clients have become a great strength to us which also proves how our dedication and efforts will sustain our success in the years ahead.

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