

Are there any unintended consequences from the proposed reforms?

I would say that one of the unintended consequences will be to reduce the ability of mature, skilled people to work in Australia for short periods.

I am in my 50s, with four children in school in the UK. It simply is not practical to move my family here for a short period, and even if I did I would have to maintain a home in the UK to maintain 'habitual residence' in the UK. I still pay tax and National Insurance in the UK.

It has proved much more costly to work here than I had imagined it would be. I only discovered LAFHA recently and it is a welcome lifeline. Of course, crack down on the abuses, but many people have legitimate additional expenses and working here is not really economic in that situation. I don't have a car and can't afford even to go home to visit my family.

The measures will inevitably reduce the supply of the most skilled international migrants - those who have developed deep roots back home which they want to keep.

Regards

Malcolm Stroud