

I saw with interest on TVNZ 1 Breakfast this morning news, that Productivity Commission will conduct inquiry into immigration.

I wish to advise, as the daughter of an elderly mother who lived for 10 years in a nursing home, as well as myself having been a cleaner for 4 years at a nursing home, that about 80% of their workers in nursing homes are semi-skilled migrants from the Philippines, Pacific or other Asia/Pacific countries.

Recently the Aged Care Association reflected the above observations.

I've observed that these people contribute hugely to our economy as their kids go to our schools, universities, their whole families go to our churches, they're very much integrated into the Kiwi way of life

I've always found these workers to be diligent and they come here with a long-term mindset, some of them spend 20-30 years working at the same nursing home, raise families here as well as sending money home to their families. They often upskill their HCA or nursing qualifications at local polytech providers (like Whitireia, Weltec) and go on to become senior nurses in hospitals.

These people are valuable and they have a largely pleasant, helpful manner; **are polite and have a good work ethic.**

The whole time my mother was in a nursing home I never heard her complain about the Philipino workers, HCAs, nurses, who were all professional, people-oriented and career-driven.

Seeing on the News recently that 'skilled or semi skilled workers' by the Labor Govt won't be allowed here or will have visa restrictions, would cut out thousands of such people above, and we need these people, who are committed to providing a good service **and intend on staying the rest of their lives here – usually marrying and raising children here, who often end up attaining a tertiary education, a step up from their parents.**

Caregiving now has a qualification attached to it, whereas years ago, when I first became familiar with the nursing home industry, it didn't and 'caregivers' were mainly unskilled labour

or returning-to-the-workforce nurses who hadn't updated their qualifications to Degree stage;as I understood that a Nursing Degree was now expected and required in the industry, to attain the career pathway/status of 'RN' (Registered Nurse) etc.

Nowdays, these women and men are able to do part time study at providers listed above to improve their standard of living socio-economic status and I take my hat off to them.

I don't see many Kiwis stepping up for these type of roles in the nursing home or hospital industry **because it's physically demanding work and 10 years ago was minimum wage of \$13 per hour;** and it's mainly these very skilled migrants.

So I hope you can take this aspect into consideration with your findings, as that's a whole sector of the workforce who are not transient or unskilled, on the contrary, they are always striving to better themselves career-wise and usually do over their years of settling into NZ.