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30 July 2010

Regulatory Burdens Review
The Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: regulatoryburdens@pc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to express my firm's strong support for the Productivity Commission's draft recommendation that immigration lawyers be exempt from the requirement to register as a migration agent in order to provide immigration assistance.

Specifically, the Australian Government should amend the Migration Act 1958 to exempt lawyer migration agents from the Migration Agents' Registration Scheme.

Immigration lawyers in Victoria and indeed across Australia are already subject to strict regulation by individual state based legal regulatory bodies (such as the Law Institute of Victoria). Therefore lawyers are already required to undertake continuing professional development and maintain their good character in order to maintain their practising certificates each year. It is onerous and completely unnecessary for lawyers to then be subject to the same regulation through the Migration Agents Registration Authority.

Should you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Michael Clothier
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