

[Received by email 30/7/10]

**Subject: Submission**

I am writing to support the recommendation

***The Australian Government should amend the Migration Act 1958 to exempt lawyer migration agents from the Migration Agents' Registration Scheme. An independent review of the performance of lawyer agents, complaints handling and disciplinary procedures should be conducted three years after an exemption becomes effective.***

The Law Institute of Victoria has in place a rigorous process of assessing experienced Immigration Law Lawyers through the Accredited Specialisation Scheme.

Conduct of the Accredited Specialisation Scheme is detailed on the Law Institute of Victoria website. Once an experienced practitioner completes the Accredited Specialisation assessment, they are then required to undertake Continuing Professional Development activities in Immigration Law of more than 12 Units per year. Records of each practitioners attendance is audited by the Law Institute.

Practitioners who successfully complete the Accredited Specialisation assessment are 'regulated' by the Law Institute and find it absurd they also need to be monitored by the Office of the MARA. It is our view that Accredited Specialist Immigration Lawyers and Immigration Lawyers are subject to the requirements of their Law Association and should not be subject to the requirements of the Migration Agents Registration Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Julie McCormack

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