Mr Warren Mundy
Associate Commissioner
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2610

By Email: regulatoryburdens@pc.gov.au

Dear Mr Mundy,

Re: Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business: Business and Consumer Services

I wish to support the recommendation in the Commission's draft report that lawyers should be exempted from the migration agent registration scheme.

I have practised as a solicitor for over 30 years.

I am an accredited specialist in migration law and I am a co-author of "The Immigration Kit" 8th Edition published by the Federation Press.

Dual regulation acts as a disincentive to lawyers entering the field of migration law both in the field of pro-bono advice and commercial advice.

It also imposes unnecessary costs and administrative requirements on lawyers already practising in the field without any commensurate benefit to consumers.

Migration law is immensely complicated (and is becoming more so) and it is essential to encourage trained lawyers to enter this important area of law.

Migration law plays an important role in many other areas of law including;

- criminal law
- family law
- commercial law
- property law
- employment law
- personal injury law

However the current regulatory system prevents lawyers in these fields from advising on related migration issues unless they are prepared to subject themselves to a dual regulatory burden by registering as a migration agent.

This situation leads to confusion and increased costs to consumers.

The dual regulatory scheme restricts competition, increases costs and provides no tangible benefit to consumers.

Best wishes

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