

Filipino Migrants Forum

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WORK?

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Recent developments allow new job opportunities in the healthcare industry. Long term unemployed Australian permanent residents and Australian citizens can undergo retraining to work in aged care facilities. New job placements may allow overseas qualified registered nurses from the Philippines, as sponsored employees before obtaining their nurse registration in Australia. Medical practitioner or doctors are now not only listed in the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) but also in the list of occupations in demand (MODL) which entitles the applicant to additional points under certain circumstances. Pharmacists, radiographers, physiotherapists are still also listed as occupations in demand.

Filipinos in these professions could capture this market if they act on time.

As a general rule, Philippine educated nurses and other healthcare professional are required to pass an English Test as the first step before undertaking skills assessment in their profession. However, for those who have attempted the test and failed, there are loopholes appearing in limited cases and grabbing the opportunity can have its own rewards.

One way is to enrol for retraining in Australia which can take one to three years depending on the course content or curriculum of their Bachelors in Nursing degree. The English proficiency component could be packaged with the Australian degree in Nursing. We can assist in the enrolment and in obtaining the student visa for those qualified for this program.

Another way is to attend a short term re-training program *where job placement* is assured by the training organization. We can also assist in enrolling those qualified for this program.

Although the program is targeting long term unemployed Australian permanent residents and Australian citizens, there is no restriction on Filipino nurses on tourist visa to attend the course if their visa allows them to study for the period of the course. There is also a possibility of converting their tourist visa into a working visa if their visa does not have a condition of "no further stay".

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Readers of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper are invited to send their comments to "The President, Filipino Migrants Forum" c/o Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by post to Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.

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