

INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

Organisation: Illawarra Respite Forum

Name: Ms Anita Mulally

Telephone:

Date Received: 10/08/2005

Theme:

Summary

Inquiry into Skill Shortages in Rural and Regional NSW

Standing Committee on State Development

Submission

A) Current and Future demand for labour

I am part of a respite forum in the Illawarra that meet bi monthly to discuss shared respite service issues. (Respite means taking a break – services for carers to give them a break).

Over the past year we have consistently faced the shortage of bilingual personal care workers. In the Illawarra, there is a high CALD(Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) population. As this population ages even further there will be greater demand for workers who speak another language.

Currently we are faced with a shortage of bilingual aged care and disability staff. Services can not find trained bilingual aged care and disability workers. What does this say about our future? We know the population is aging and we expect more demand on our services. If we can't meet demand now, how will it be later when demand grows?

The languages most needed here are Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Spanish, Portuguese, Croatian, Vietnamese and Chinese.

The forum will be putting up posters in job seeker agencies but we feel a bigger approach is needed.

Sincerely,


Anita Mulally

On Behalf of the Illawarra Respite Forum.