

Dear Committee Members

I'm writing to show my strong objection to your newly proposed Migration Bill 2010 for capping and ceasing Migration Visa Applications.

I would like to give you a brief description of myself. I have been in Australia for the past 5 years. I Completed a Bachelors Degree in ICT with 80.33 Averages. Firstly, I was not very interested in settling down under. However, during my Internship period I happen to work for a leading Hospital in Melbourne doing significant work for their IT department on SLA (Service Level Agreement's) using the ITIL process. Once I graduated, within 2 weeks they offered me a job and here I'm working for the same company as a Project Officer/Business Analyst.

I/We applied for our residency in August 2008 under the ICT recent Graduate. My IELTS score is 8.0 (Overall) which no doubt explains my proficiency in English being my second language.

I' am forever thankful for my employer who identified my potential and talent and awarded me a job, because it has come to a point that most employers have started to ask for 'Permanent Residence or Citizen' applicants and discriminate against 'Bridging Visa Holders' like us.

I have been waiting for a decision on my application for nearly 2 years, then to be landed with a bombshell saying that the Department of Immigration/Government is considering capping and ceasing Visa applications of certain types/classifications.

First the excuse was the Global Financial Crisis. The GFC was financial crisis not an immigration crisis?

The Immigration changes introduced since September 2008 has affected me and my family in so many ways

Postpone my higher education. Currently I'm classified as a temporary resident which means I have to pay Full Fee. I cannot afford the exorbitant course fees.

Unable to settle on buying property, whilst the property prices jump higher and higher. Inability to apply for Recent Graduate jobs associated with Tier 1 companies as the requirement is to be a PR or Citizen (which is fair, but if I got my residency within a year as it would normally take then I would have been able to easily apply for same)

Having to live with uncertainty.

None what so ever benefits for our kids despite both me and my husband pay the same level of taxes as all lawful and respectful citizens in the country.

For me, this whole Immigration process has been daunting and very stressful that I have considered going for Stress Therapy. I'm sure there are many out there, who are affected by this very unfair Immigration practices.

My next option is to apply under the ENS, by spending another AUD 4000-6000, which I simply can't do as I have already lodged another legitimate application paying the Visa Fees as well as 50% of my Lawyer Fees which amounts to around AUD 5000 altogether.

However I wish to seek answers for the following from Senator Evans and his Department

Why there isn't a priority for on shore employed applicants in high skilled occupational category such as ICT. How come only certain ICT professions listed on the so called 'Critical List' are only vital to the economy and the rest of ICT occupations are not deemed important?

Despite huge delays, why is the Department still accepting applications?

Why is 'On-Shore Employed' applicants (on Bridging Visa) not entitled for any government benefit despite us paying the same taxes as every lawful, legitimate citizen?

Why neither the Minister nor his Department consider or consult MARA or MIA as they represent majority Visa Applicants?

Why is there no transparency in the processing queues? Does the department not have professional ICT professional's who could do a simple web based queue for its audience to see where the department is progressing at? Or is the department not willing to publish its inefficient processing statistics because it reflects the poor administration?

Why did the department not know before hand that there were too many cooks and hairdressers and few other occupations? Is the Department that poor in its resources?

Why has it taken over 2 years for the department to determine a sudden cap and cease when they could have simply done this before accepting our Visa applications 2 years before?

Why are we just a TRN (Transaction reference Number) to the department and not considered human? How does Senator Evans expect us to recover though the emotional distress we are going through?

Where is the Australian 'Fair Go'? It must have disappeared to the bush down under!!

I consider the cap and ceasing for On Shore applicants totally unfair. Our kids are born and bought up here, we have adopted the Australian way of life, we have found employment in the area we studied and are not reliant on Centerlink, we pay taxes as same as others and what more should we do??

As far as I go, I'm not making any recommendations, because that is not my intention and I believe it is up to your selves to determine the most suitable for this country.

However, I would like to raise my voice to let you know, how badly I have been affected by being a genuine applicant and applying under the laws which were made by your selves (at that time), for being a talented and ambitious individual who constantly strive for success and finally for being a day dreamer who still thinks and always thought that Australia is a place where people get a 'Fair Go'.