

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing in relation to the recent proposed changes to Australia's citizenship laws, specifically the immediate application of the new citizenship residency requirement. I believe it runs contrary to the principle that we all deserve a "fair go": a core Australian value, highlighted in all Australian citizenship literature.

Citizenship is the expected and encouraged progression from permanent residency, and many permanent residents plan and work towards that goal. This change effectively shifts the goalposts: it may deny opportunity equally, but it doesn't deny it fairly.

By changing the goalposts, Australia also risks losing many highly skilled, educated permanent residents - integral to Australian society - who are unable to change their multi-year residency plans.

Tying the residency requirement to the date that applicants for citizenship become permanent residents is both fair, and follows precedent (see Australian Citizenship Act 2007). Indeed, it is radical and contrary to the rule of law - an Australian value - for a Government to suggest retrospective legislation to implement these changes.

We first arrived to Australia my self and my husband on March 2014 on 457 Visa, my husband then was sponsored by his company and we got our Permanent Residency on [31st December 2016](#).

We hold a Palestinian passport, which most of countries doesn't allow its entrance to their grounds, therefore we are considered as stateless.

We were born and raised in Kuwait both myself and my husband and my family is still living there.

Kuwait doesn't allow its residents to stay abroad for more than 6 months without official documents(etc. medical reason with certified medical letters, which was my case when I was pregnant 2016).

I gave birth to our first child on October 2016, my son is considered stateless and unfortunately Kuwait doesn't allow an innocent 8 months old baby to enter its ground for that reason.

My father passed away last month on [19 May 2017](#), his wish was seeing my son(his first grandchild) before dying.

His death came as a shock, he had a heart condition his whole life but no one expected his death while only 57 years. unfortunately after 2 years without seeing him I had to go to Kuwait to bury him, the sad part was that I had to leave my son behind with my in-laws as he couldn't enter Kuwait (stateless).

We were going to be eligible for the citizenship application by March 2018, sadly if the new bill is approved we will have to wait til March 2021.

We have been in Australia for 3 years now, paying taxes, law-abiding, being productive, well integrated and finally calling Australia our home.

We were glad a country like Australia which laws are based on democracy will accept us as human beings finally rather than being treated according to our Palestinian passport, which we had no fault of holding.

Mr. Peter Dutton has recently been comparing the citizenship permanent residency length with other countries like Germany, Canada, India etc., neglecting that people who went there at first knew the exact period they need after obtaining their permanent residency to apply for the citizenship, in our case everything changed in a matter of a day.

These proposed changes have left us feeling insecure and anxious, thinking that if the bill passes now the laws may change again and again in the future, depriving us from feeling settled.

The retrospective decision of the bill mainly concerns us, as changes should only apply to people entering Australia after [20/4/2017](#) if the bill passes.

I hope you'll consider my proposal and argue on its behalf, so that I - and other Permanent Residents like me - can have the Australian fair go that we all deserve.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,