

- 
- Current visa status – Bridging visa V826
  - Date of application for permanent visa – 29.08.2007
  - My nominated occupation – Cook, New Business Owner
  - I spent \$ 33 000 AUD for Australian training for the purpose of occupation as well as \$ 6 000 AUD associated with my visa application. (it includes: Permanent Residency visa fee, Migration Agent fees, IELTS, Health check, police check and etc)
  - I have paid \$ 20 000 AUD of tax since my arrival to Australia

For me Australia was the Best Place to be. Since I was a teenager I had a dream to live and work in a beautiful country with great opportunities and bright future. To lose everything I have in Australia, would be worse than death. It would mean going broke, losing more money and being sent back home to a place with no opportunities or jobs. My parents, who had lots of trust in me, spent their last funds in order to help me fulfill my dream and help me to have a bright future.

Unfortunately, the country I come from is not a very pleasant place to live. It is a country that does not recognize many basic human rights that are taken for granted in Australia. Women's rights barely exist, domestic violence is common, and we have a Government that is easily bribed and corrupted. I can not imagine myself living there anymore. I never wanted to stay there and live a life where I could not choose to be something better. This was the reason I came to Australia. So I could escape from all the terrible things in that place and make a better life for myself.

I love my occupation and I've been working as a cook for the last 4 years. Recently I finally felt ready to open up my own business, which I have been working on and researching for a while. It includes catering and sandwich manufacturing/wholesale. I strongly believe that it will bring more employment opportunities as well as other benefits to the Australian economy, as I will also need to employ people.

I've done many things since I have been here. I have tried to do everything required of me in order to live in this country, and have tried to do it properly. I've built my life here. I feel like I belong here and call Australia home.

I have been patiently waiting for my permanent residency visa decision for almost three years, while many others have had theirs approved much sooner, but hearing the news that my Visa might cease or not be granted is like giving me the death penalty.

I strongly believe that it is very unfair and hugely disappointing towards international students, to mislead their hopes and expectations. Though I wanted to come here for a long time, I only came and invested funds into education, paid my taxes and even started my own business once I was sure that the cost of doing so was worth it. This was because of the promises Australian Government made.

At the moment I feel deceived and almost cheated by Australian Government if they were to pass such a bill. I have invested everything I have into getting a good education and creating a life here. I have even been ripped off already, but still continue to focus on learning and working hard to try to achieve my goals.

I have waited a very long time for this, worked very hard to get this far and I would be more than upset if I was suddenly denied a visa.

I hope this letter will help to stop Minister for Immigration and Citizenship of implementing new changes against people who already hold bridging visas. People who have already studied, worked hard in their fields, people who have invested their time, their hopes and also invested lots and lots of money into Australian Economy in order to fulfill their dreams and have a beautiful life here in Australia.

Yours Sincerely,