

Dear Senator,

Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

I am writing to indicate my families dismay on facing the prospect of having to leave Australia which has been our home for the past five years because of this change to the migration amendment bill.

I came to Australia on a Student visa to complete my studies as a Hairdresser and after completing my studies in 2007 I applied for permanent residency.

(As I submitted my application without an agent or lawyer, I had many conversations with DIAC on the phone and received advise on what requirements I need to meet in submitting a complete application)

And when asked how long will it take to process my application? I was told that my application will be processed within 6 months if my application was complete.

At the time which I applied Hairdressing was a Trade in demand and after meeting all requirements placed at the time I submitted my application.

But since then DIAC has changed its policies many times and I was told that my application will be processed in due course but I will have to be patient as the new priority processing arrangements were put in place.

But this didn't stop more applications being submitted to DIAC and my application like many others have just gone to the back of the queue.

It's really upsetting that I have been treated like this.

I have been waiting for so long for my application to be processed.

Despite the fact that I have been working as a Hairdresser (The trade I nominated) and submitted all documents requested by the department.

And now with this bill I might have to leave Australia, which I just cannot imagine.

When I applied I didn't have to be sponsored and I applied as a Independent migrant. I passed the point test, met all the requirements put in place and yet my application has been pushed to the end of the line.

With the priority processing system introduced, I did try to ask my employer to sponsor me but unfortunately the type of employment they offer is only Part time.

The minister stresses on skilled migrants with good command of English. Well I am a skilled migrant who has been contributing to the Australian economy with my trade service and my husband and I speak very good English.

My husband and I have invested all our time and money to make a better life for us here in Australia.

We have family of 40 to 50 people (citizens of Australia) including in laws, Aunts, Uncles, cousins, etc. who would not like to see us leave.

My husband has a full time job here since May 2008 and has become a valuable employee to his employer.

Having my application lying in limbo for years and now trying to cap and cease us is just not fare.

We are a family, we have dreams of buying a house here and providing a solid education for our daughter who was born here and will be turning 3 very soon. She has known this to be her home and has adapted the Australian way of life.

My heart is filled with great pain when I think of what will become of us if my application is capped. This bill should apply to the future applicants and not for people like me who have been waiting for years.

We applied 3 years ago and met all requirements placed at the time. We were told on many occasions that our application will not be affected by the many changes that took place and that it will be processed by 2011.

I didn't mind the fact that we were asked to wait but now what the Minister is saying that he wants the power to cap and cease certain categories of applicants based on certain characteristics and occupations? (including General Skilled Migration)

What does this mean??

Its not my fault that my application was pushed to the back of the line thus creating a backlog of applicants.

I submitted a complete and legal application with the requirements placed at the time.

This is fare if it applies to future applicants, as they are aware of what is at stake. But for applicants who have been waiting for 3 years is just plain ruthless.

Many people don't understand this, and may think whats the big deal, well it is a big deal. Because life is a tough ride and when you have invested so much to build your dreams and then just to be told that all your effort was in vain at the end of it, is just too painful.

What am I supposed to believe now? My life has been put on hold for 3 years.

I want to buy a house, my husband wants to settle down in a good career. But we cannot do anything because we are on a Bridging visa. And now with this Bill everything will be over for my family.

Why cant the genuine applicants get a fare go and be given the chance to get on with our lives.

My family and I have been extremely stressed because of this news.

We shouldn't be treated like this. We are honest hard working people, who just want to live a peaceful life and live our dreams.

Please understand our emotional plea in this matter. This bill should not apply to those honest applicants who have been waiting for so long.

Please give this matter your favorable consideration.