Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Daniel Salcedo and I come to Australia with my wife in April 2007 with a student visa in order to improve my English. In August 2007 I applied for a permanent skilled visa 136 with Architecture as my skill which at that time was in the Migration On Demand List (MODL) list. This process, according to my agent, would not take more than 12 months to finalize. Since then I have been extending my student visa hoping for a positive outcome of this application without success. I never understood how we, with a skill in MODL list, were in the queue whereas other people with skills only in the SOL list were processed before me.

Despite of everything, I decide to wait patiently until September 2009 when the Minister of Immigration decided to create a new list called CSL and Architecture was not in that list; therefore, according to the minister decision, we had to wait until the end of 2012 in order to check my application because my skill wasn't in that list no matter if I were waiting for 2 years already. Then in February 2010 the minister decides that applicants of Pre-September 2007 are going to be "capped and ceased" because the requirements at that time were easier.

I just find these decisions made by the minister unfair as we have been here in Australia for 3 years and we feel settled. The only thing pending is our legal situation with DIAC. Now we can't apply for another visa as we have lost our skill experience required to apply for a new visa. My wife is a physiotherapist and she was accepted by UniSA to do a master in physiotherapy to start in July 2010 but we decided not to go forward with the application as we feel treated very badly by the Australian government.

Coming back to my country now would be a disastrous decision as we feel that coming back would mean to have wasted the years spent here in Australia.

 I hope that common sense can prevail this time in these matters and people like me that have applied in good faith can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Kind Regards,

Daniel Salcedo