

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having noticed that Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010 might have a huge influence on every aspect of Australian economy if it is approved by the parliament, I would like to say something before it is too late.

Three years ago, I came to Australia for further study and last December I successfully obtained my bachelor degree. All my family members and friends are so happy for me because I really proved that I could be independent and make my dreams come true. This is my first time that I have ever been away from my parents, however, I made that happen. During my stay here, I have learnt a lot both academic and life experience. Since my parents could only afford my 3-year tuition, I needed to find a part time job to support my living expenses. We all know that there is a limitation on the student visa regarding the working hours, which is up to 20 hours a week. I totally understand this is for our own good as the priority of a student is study. Thus, I spent 14 hours on casual work every week and others were spent on my university studies. To be honest, the rent and food and transport fees are not that cheap, in order to save money, sometimes I had to skip lunches. And I used to wake up in the midnight due to the overwhelming stress. Besides, I wanted to get some health products for my parents because they have high blood pressure and osteoarthritis. But I never felt my life was so full. I have made new friends, got to know the local culture, balanced work and study finally and handled many other things. I began to love this beautiful country and I do feel that this is the place I would like to settle down. I stay positive and keep achieving my goal. Hard work does pay off. I passed the IELTS test by gaining an overall 7.5 score. Despite the disadvantage of not having a PR or a citizenship, a marketing company agreed to hire me as an office assistant and translator after I tried several months for job hunting. I was so excited since this is my first real job. My life is going on the right track as I planned and I believe that everything will be great here. Now I am about to buy a car as I am learning driving and probably in two years time, I will purchase my own property. I do have confidence that I can make a great life in Australia.

I realize that the public somehow consider overseas students pose a threat to the society like the mid-east trouble makers. As a matter of fact, 95% of overseas students are law-abiding. Many of them are well educated and with high skills which would greatly promote the development of this country. And no one could deny that overseas students and new immigrants have contributed a lot to Australia. Since the new of this bill spread out, most of them have been in the nightmare. It is not fair to treat these innocent students like this. If this bill is passed, either those who already lodged their applications or anyone who is about to apply for a permanent residency will lose faith in this country. The current policy and regulations should not be against the previous applicants. Not to mention it is totally injustice for those who have waited for over two years and already brought properties to start a new life in Australia. They have put so much effort and in the end they are banned from this country. I am not saying it is wrong to higher the standards. Yet this bill is not considerate at all. To cut it all does not solve the problems. Actually it will cause more. On the other hand, if this industry collapses, knock-on effects will occur. So if I may suggest, please think twice before you act.

I do hope things could be worked out in a smoother way and everyone will have a happy ending.

Your faithfully,