

Respected Sir/Ma'am

We arrived in Australia in the year 2005 and my wife pursued her Masters in Accounting while I worked full time. We had to go through a lot of hardships in the initial two years but we decided to stick to our decision and work towards our goal of getting a good life as we had put in so much money, time and energy into it. We filed our residency in August 2007 and are still awaiting a decision.

My wife who worked in fast food restaurants all through her student life started working in 2008 as a junior accountant in and is currently working as an assistant accountant for over one and a half years now. She wants to change job and get a better paid job but she cannot as all good places she applied at need residency while we are on bridging visa. We both want to work hard, buy a house and start a family like all others but we cannot because of our status. Our case got opened and then we were asked to submit more documents but we got no result and are still waiting since then (2009).

It is very frustrating on the part of people like us and so many others who have done everything legally, worked hard and paid our taxes that we have to wait so long for a decision that could either break or make our lives. If the department did not wish to grant us residency they should have told us that back in 2007 and we would have left the country or even before we came here we should have been told this. We feel we have wasted almost 5 years of our career building years and now her degree and my work experience will have no relevance in our country.

Also I would like to tell you that all my wife's classmates who did their Masters in Accounting are now residents/citizens and none of them work as Accountants while she is the only one who has made it her career but is not granted residency.

I believe it is not fair that immigration will cap and terminate cases dating back 3-4 years under new rules. It is totally unfair on our part, as we lodged our case under a different set of rules according to which we are eligible for residency status but now after 3 years if you tell us that we will be sent back which I believe is a bit unfair.

I look forward to a fair decision making from your side as our lives and future rely on it and thank you for allowing us to write our views and concerns on this matter.

Regards