

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is . I am 31 years old and an academic researcher at , Australia. I landed in Australia 5 years ago (in 2013) for the first time with postgraduate student visa, leaving my home country and family for a thriving future. I recently accomplished my Ph.D. studies and now am a senior teaching associate at .

During my PhD studies, I just focused on my research studies rather than trying to collect enough points for applying for Skilled migration visa. But as soon as I found about proposed citizenship rules, I lodged my PR application (early May 2017) and I got it last September.

I hope you can imagine how immediately effective change in the rules would devastate many of current Australian residents' life. Earlier this year, I was awarded an International Postdoctoral Fellowship award from in China which is ranked within top 10 universities in the world, way better than Australian universities, but I rejected this brilliant offer to stay in Australia to live and work in Australia. Getting Australian Citizenship was meant to be the final step of this long journey I embarked upon when I was merely 27 and left my family behind to call this country home. But, it is said that proposed changes will be applied to applicants applying after 1st July 2018, which I am also affected by it! The English test is not something that I am concerned about, but the time temporary visa holders have to wait till they can apply for citizenship is quite unfair. To me, it is just like changing the rules in the middle of a game for the people already in the system! Provided this proposed bill is passed by the senate, it should only be effective in 2-year frame; for instance, if it is approved on Dec 2018, it should come into effect for applicants applying from Dec 2020. Just in this way, the people who have already planned their life, won't be affected and people who are just thinking to come to Australia can reconsider their decision NOW while knowing the game rule in advance. As another alternative, the proposed changes should not be retrospective to the date of approval by the senate.

The new rule can make someone who has spent less time than me in Australia (and obviously is less integrated in Australian community) get eligible for citizenship much earlier than me. For instance, my classmate and I who have arrived at the same time in 2013 will have completely different destiny; he is eligible to apply for his citizenship now! Although we were both sitting and working in the same office, we were both class demonstrators and have worked together shoulder to shoulder, I have to wait another 3 years (8 years in total) to get eligible for citizenship!!

I am extremely concerned with this unplanned residency requirement change and I urge people who have power for this change to at least exclude those Australian residents who have been resided in Australia long enough, no matter on temporary or permanent visas; and apply any new rule to upcoming residents only on the basis that they would know the rule and can decide before entering to country. After all, as an academic researcher and a representative amongst young and vibrant entrepreneurs, I would be more than happy to contribute more on this matter and optimise this change in a logical way to better shape Australia.

Kind regards,