

Mr & Mrs S Kempe

30th May 2010

To whom it may concern,

We lodged a visa sc 175 back in Nov 2009 whilst waiting for a decision on a state sponsorship application submitted to Western Australia. I am a self employed hairdresser. I received state sponsorship on the 9th March 2010 after waiting for almost seven months and my visa was transferred to a sc 176 with a current priority of 5 in your processing lists. I would first like to tell you a little bit about my family and the what are plans are how much we have spent and finally the stresses that have been placed not only on my immediate family but also our parents as a result of the current and may I add constant changes to the original process that was in place when we lodged.

We visited Perth Western Australia as a family back in April 2005 for a holiday, which lasted for the whole month. We stayed with our uncle and aunt in Kallaroo, Perth, who have lived in Australia for 35 years after emigrating from England. Their children and now their families have now also set up home in Perth. We also have another uncle and aunt who migrated from the UK approximately 20 years ago and have set up home with their children and families in Perth.

Whilst in Perth, we found it to be a very clean and beautiful place. We found the people very warm and welcoming to us as tourists and nothing seemed too much trouble. We soon discovered that as a result of the climate the people seemed to have a much more relaxed attitude than what we are used to in Britain and we found ourselves adjusting to this lifestyle with ease, to the extent where we started considering what it would be like to live in Perth and things progressed quite quickly from there.

As a result of this, we started visiting show homes to see what sort of properties we could afford in Perth and also we made enquiries with a local migration agent to familiarise ourselves with the process. We found that with my occupation as a hairdresser being one that is in demand, that our dream could possibly become a reality.

Our uncle, who we stayed with for the month, has his own hairdressing business within London Court Perth and has done since he migrated to Perth within the 1970's. We have discussed at great length the possibility of me working alongside him within the salon and also briefly discussed the opportunities that could arise when he retires; this included the chance of me purchasing the business. I have a letter from him confirming an offer of full time employment. Whilst being a well known salon in Perth he only employs 2 people and as a result although I have a definitive Job offer we could not enter a ENS visa . Another rule that is hindering our process. Hairdressing in WA is still in state wide demand.

My husband, who is an insurance broker, was also impressed with the opportunities that could arise for him working within the city due to his occupation.

We have a sixteen year old daughter who is due to begin her final year of secondary school education. She attends Plymouth High School, a grammar school within the city and will be sitting her GCSE exams in May 2010. As an individual she has researched the modern foreign languages courses that she wishes to undertake at university in order to teach them at a higher level and she has found that these courses are available to her within the University of Western Australia in Perth. Having discussed with her the impact of the possible move, she is in complete agreement with our proposals.

We felt that as a family, we owed it to ourselves to follow through our dreams, whilst also giving our daughter the opportunity to live in what we feel to be a safer and healthier environment that Australia offers. We also believed that having a strong family presence within Perth would give us the support and guidance that we will need whilst becoming accustomed to our new life within Australia.

When I initially signed up with our migration agent back in June 2009 the process was projected to take between 10-12 months to initial entry into Australia. We waited until the TRA result returned positive before we told our parents of our plans. This was a very emotional time as I'm sure you can appreciate telling loved ones that you intend to move to Australia is a very difficult thing to do. Advising our parents that we intend to move and take away their 16 year old Granddaughter broke their hearts. We had dreaded telling them and it appears that this might have been in vain. We are still 100% committed to the move even with the long delays now being imposed and this just adds to the emotion and stress. After we lodged our visa in November 2009 we had been given a false impression by DIAC on their website that once you have lodged and your money has been paid that your application would be processed in line with the rules at the time of placing. This was further backed up by the Ministers announcement on the 8th February 2010 that the MODL was being replaced and a new SOL was to be implemented. On this day the DIAC website advised that applications lodged prior to this date would not be affected and neither would they by the the new SOL when released on the 1st July 2010.

We have always had to read comments from the minister that Hairdressers and Cooks are in oversupply in the backlog. Reading comments like this on a continuous basis also adds to the stress but not as much as the current suggestion that Visas under GSM could be capped and killed.

The prospect of having spent so far nearly £3000, expended lots of personal time and effort, the heartache of telling family and the thought that everyday something might change that means your dreams are squashed. We lodged our Visa in good faith and feel that any action being taken retrospectively is fundamentally wrong. We have adhered to every request for payment and documentation when asked to continue with the process in line with what process was in place when we lodged. If there is an oversupply of some occupations or some Visa sc have been bad for the system then the rules should be applied from now and applicants that are already in the system should be treated fairly and have their visas processed.

I just hope that the Australian Senate take on board the many submissions that they receive from applicants and realise that we are not just a TRN number but we are actually human beings that have decided that we would like to raise our families in the beautiful country that Australia undoubtedly is. By doing this the only fair decision that the Senate can make is to not pass this Bill and not to Cap and Cease.

Yours Sincerley

Mrs Sophia Kempe

On behalf of the Kempe family