

I came to Melbourne to study for a Masters Degree in Business and Information Technology at The University of Melbourne. I chose to apply for permanent residency in February 2009 because I loved living in Melbourne and felt I could contribute positively towards the growth and development of this country. Since then I have been actively trying to seek employment within my chosen profession but I constantly get rejected because I am not a resident.

- I would like the Australian government to address this issue, if one is required to work within their chosen field as part of their visa requirement; the government should ensure employers have the capacity to employ someone who is on a bridging visa.

I am very disappointed with the Australian government. I have been lumped in with other immigrants who come here to study hairdressing and plumbing purely to qualify for permanent residency. I have invested time (over 3 years) and money (over 20,000 dollars in fees and now income taxes from my full time job) into this country because I was sure I would eventually be able to see the fruits of my labour. Now I just feel cheated. What kind of government accepts over 2000 dollars in fees for a visa application, allows universities to use permanent residency as a marketing tool, keeps you waiting in limbo for over a year, (not caring how you survive within that time) then turns around and says, sorry, I changed my mind. To call this kind of treatment cruel would be an understatement.

- I would like the Australian government to clarify how they will ensure that genuine professional immigrants do not get short changed.