

To: Parliament of Australia, Senate

From: Kevin Yang

Re: Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010

I am here to address my strong concerns against proposed bill of migration amendment of GSM visa capping, and express view of opposition against the contents outlined in the bill.

Australia has been well known as an immigrant nation, the nation opens the door for the skilled workers to come devote their knowledge and skill to the prosperity of the Australia. Through years that Australian government has well managed and balanced the skilled migrants to help them settle their home in Australia.

But this bill really disappointed that it states the intention of get rid of those applicants in the pipeline by enforcing the minister's power, even more disappointed, the proposal states that there is an oversupply for specified occupation such as cooks, pastry chef and hairdresser. This will irritate groups of potential migrants, oversea students, education institute, and AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYERS.

The following I will outline the points for parliament consideration:

- 1. Department of immigration and citizenship has started tightening the policy to control the possible number of GSM application since 2005, by introducing compulsory working experience, then extra 1 year full time work experience or 7 of IELTS in four components, then English skill up to 6 of IELTS on each components as the minimum language requirement.etc. Every change I believe a great number of possible application becomes impossible. The purpose behind the change is easy to understand, make sure the highly qualified workers are selected for a better labor market. Hence, those students and workers can still make a valid GSM application on the basis of meeting a highly tightened immigration policy are those who has successfully completed their study, has needful skill, excellent language ability also years of local working experience. There is no point that this group of qualified worker's application should be capped, it is contradictory to the purpose of GSM program.**

2. In the proposal, it is stated that the specified occupation is oversupply for the labor market which is considered not in demand any more, such as cook and other trade workers. As also stated, in 2007/08, 5000 out of 41000 GSM applicants were granted the residency as tradesperson, there are still 17594 valid applications in the pipeline whose nominated occupation are cook and hairdresser. Everyone knows a truth, since the beginning of 2008/09 financial year, it is rare to hear someone was granted residency whose nominated occupation is in cook or hairdresser. But the question is what are those applicants doing during the decision-waiting period? As I stated before, those who can still apply, are those who are with skills, experience and language ability. They have been working for years in the industry even before they made the application. Those skill workers widely spread into Australian business in every corner and work hard! It can be reflected from the job-finding newspaper that the shortage has declined. But these 17594 applicants have not yet been granted residency, in other word, they are in the pipeline, however, they are in the position to work for Australian business to fulfill the vacancy on full or part time basis. Is it fair to say, they are not needed any more, and should be capped! Further, these people in the pipeline are labor force which is needed in the market for Australian employers.
3. Department of immigration and citizenship has stated that the GSM program is designed to ensure an optimized labor force to help the economy growth. From what DIAC has done, I believe they are understanding this issue unilaterally, compare with a whole economic picture of Australia in relation to sustainability of future economy growth. Before a student arrives in Australia, he has already started spending for Australia, such as VISA processing fee. Since his landing in Australia, his big spending really shows up. Before the residency was granted, they bring big amount of money from oversea to pay for tuition, accommodation, food, cloth, transportation. Etc. On the other hand, they learned the skill, get a job locally, they started to pay for the tax. After, they plan to settle their life in Australia, they will have to bring big amount of money from oversea to buy a house, car, boat, and all others needed. I cannot see any of these will have negative impact on Australian economy, but instead, create more job opportunities, make the nation more powerful and developed. From view of DIAC, they simply think, if the workers are oversupplied, they will have no employment and begging from government, then becomes a burden of government. That could happen to the illegal migrants just landing Australia from a big boat come with nothing and ask for government's assistance, but really not for those well educated, with their skill assessed oversea students.

4. Many oversea students have spend many years of their life study in Australia, I know many students started their study from high school now graduates with master degree or PHD. They have friends, colleagues, and workmates here in Australia, they work in their field for a long time as well, Australia really becomes a home country for them, and they have their application under consideration. Now you suddenly tell them, Australian doesn't need you anymore, so pack and go. Besides the big money they have spent, and what they have done for the nation, would it be the right thing to do just cap them and kick them out of the country? That is not Australian way of doing things!

In conclusion, I insist that it will be a loss for both Australia and visa applicant if the capping is implemented, I cannot imagine the massive impact on Australia international reputation.