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31 January 2020

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

**RE: Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Bill 2019 and Migration
Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment (Rates of Charge) Bill 2019**

We write in support for the passage of the Regulation Bill.

In Australia, Fragomen is an immigration law firm with over 130 professionals and support staff nationally, including Australian legal practitioners, Accredited Specialists in Immigration Law, Registered Migration Agents (**RMA**) and other immigration professionals.

We have offices in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney and assist clients with a broad range of Australian immigration services from corporate visa assistance, immigration legal advice, audit and compliance services, individual migration and citizenship applications. Globally, we are one of the world's leading global immigration firms, providing comprehensive immigration solutions to our clients from over 40 offices in 19 countries.

We support the removal of dual regulation for Australian legal practitioners who practice in immigration law, as this will:

- Reduce the administrative and financial burden associated with maintaining both a practicing certificate and MARA registration;
- Provide clients with greater clarity as to the distinction between an Australian legal practitioner and Registered Migration Agent (**RMA**) and the relevant regulatory; and
- Remove barriers to entry, resulting in a greater pool of professionals from whom clients can seek advice and therefore increase competitiveness within the industry.

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As Australian legal practitioners are already subject to one of the most rigorous regulatory schemes administered by the relevant Law Society in each State / Territory, we believe that it is unnecessary that they also be subject to the additional requirement of holding MARA registration and the separate regulatory scheme associated with such registration.

We also support the ability of restricted legal practitioners to hold MARA registration for a period of 2 years (with a potential further 2 years), to enable them to meet the requirements of supervised legal practice in order to gain an unrestricted practicing certificate. We submit that the effectiveness of this measure could be enhanced through the collaboration of all relevant Law Societies to ensure that the transition for this cohort is as smooth as possible and consistent at a national level.

If we can assist with policy development in this area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Teresa Liu
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