

Please read below what one of the finest and respected Immigration Lawyers has to say:

‘ ‘A new bill about to be passed through the Senate at parliament house in Canberra this month will give the power to the Minister of Immigration, Senator Evans, to **cap and cease** any GSM applications currently in the pipeline of processing and any future lodgments.

The new powers should be called “**slash and burn**” because that is exactly the effect it may have on students who may have been on bridging visas for years following their onshore GSM applications.

Of course those tens of thousands of former international students who have been waiting in Australia for years whilst DIAC’s currently suspended their processing are now very anxious indeed.

In the article below in today’s SMH, the Minister is quoted as saying “**the government needed to be able to select people based on skills needs rather than rely on applicants who thought they could study in Australia and buy a place in the migration program.**”

Buying a place in the migration program?????

It seems **the Minister has finally shown his true hatred for international students**. We feel obligated to point out to Senator Evans, that the students have come to study and paid for a set of skills by enrolling in a **DIAC authorized Australian Education Institution**. They paid for these skills because they were the skills advertised by DIAC as needed in Australia. DIAC laid out the red carpet. “Come here study in Australia in a skill this country needs and we will let you apply for residency”, was the broadcast.

Now however Mr. Evans has accused students of buying their migration place for simply flocking to Australia to take up this offer! **How insulting**. Students have simply enrolled and participated in a program which his department has encouraged them to do so. It is not the students fault that DIAC was so naive not to expect that tens of thousands who would take up this offer.

Taking their money during the Global Financial Crisis (GFC)

During a seminar to migration agents last year in Sydney, Peter Spindlewinde, Head of the Skilled Migration Policy Section of DIAC, let it slip that DIAC was aware of the systems problems in GSM applications but they were hesitant to act whilst the GFC was ongoing.

So during the GFC the Australian government was happy about the money pouring into this country by international students, both in course fees and spending for their living expenses. They let them in to spend this money even though they had planned these changes in advance. However now that Australia has deemed itself clear of the worst of the GFC, the government has a new attitude, "thank you for the money students but hey most of you, it's time to go home".

Recently in seminars held around Australia to both students and migration agents, DIAC claims overseas students should only come to Australia to enhance their education, not to expect residency.

DIAC's hypocrisy is sickening to the stomach to all fair minded Australians.

We call on the Minister Senator Evans to publicly announced that he has no intention to use these new powers he is about to be endowed with against the international students who are currently on bridging visas waiting for their residency to be granted.

Please tell us Minister that this so called suspension of processing of GSM applications was not just a ploy to gain time to obtain and then use these powers against the students in an attempt to slash and burn them from the migration program.

Applying for permanent resident GSM visas is about to become a game of Russian roulette.

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