

June 1st 2010

Dear Ministers of Senate Enquiry

Because of the devastating consequences that will affect myself and my family should this bill become law, I feel compelled to ask you to consider very very carefully before you allow this minister for immigration and any future ministers such draconian powers that will cause great stress and worry to so many families.

I have two children, both now grown up with their own families. My son is an Australian citizen with an Australian wife and two children.

My daughter is living in Australia with her husband & two children on a bridging visa A. She applied for PR in December 2008 having completed two years of full-time study at Griffith University in Brisbane and graduation with a degree in Adult & Vocational Education teaching. She has obtained teaching registration from Education Queensland and has been working in the local TAFE , in her nominated occupation since Jan 2009 she previously worked for them on a part time basis prior to finishing her degree from July 2008. In her two years at Griffith she obtained a certificate of excellence for each year(ie in the top 10% of students on her course)

She submitted her application for an 886 family sponsored skilled visa in December 2008 just before the "priority processing" changes. Being an onshore applicant she , her husband and two children all had to submit medicals and police checks along with their application. These cost a considerable amount of money but at the time her application was sent in she fully expected to have her application assessed before these expired. Coming over on a student visa all university course fees for herself and school fees for her school age child had to be paid and she also forfeited any rights to child support payments from the UK. As I am sure you can see all this has cost her a considerable amount of time and money but with the prospect of being able to raise her children over here in Australia it all seemed worthwhile.

My husband and I hold permanent residency.. We have bought a house over here and are settled. The thought of my daughter's application being capped and ceased fills me with fear and horror. I do not know just how my husband and I could exist without seeing our daughter and grandchildren. We have helped out with childcare ever since coming over here as my daughter's workload at university was so demanding. Her youngest child is still only 4 so we are still occupied with childcare at least two days per week as nursery fees, without help, are so high.

On a bridging visa life is not easy. You are always the temporary resident and money is tight but at least you are here in Australia with your family.

Please do not allow the minister to cap & cease applications without at least some thought for the applicants. An interview with onshore applicants to see how they are doing in Australia, jobs, tax, rates, housing etc and what value they have added to the community would be the least that a person with any thoughts for other human beings should recommend. There should definitely be some concessions for people who are already working in their nominated occupations in Australia even if their skills are not on a critical list.

I urge you to please treat applicants as individuals and not as a “job lot” .

Thankyou so much for taking the time to read this submission.

Yours faithfully

A very concerned and worried mother and grandmother.