

**From:** A group of concerned community members

**Coordinator:** Farzad Alavi Fard

**Contact address:**

**Email Address:**

To whom it may concern,

I am applying to you on behalf of a group of Australian community members. We are appealing to you to cease the forgoing of the "Immigration Amendment Bill (Visa Capping) 2010" to the senate, based on the following grounds:

First and foremost, the bill introduces a potential subjective power for the minister. Currently, the General Skill Migration visa applications are assessed objectively based on the requirements of Australian labour market, and the ability of the applicants to meet those requirements. However, since the new bill allows the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to exclude some of the applications at their discretion; the inference of human judgment in the process of selecting applications is inevitable. This promotes apprehension amongst applicants for which whether their application will be processed fairly, based on their merit or the subjective opinion of the case officer.

Furthermore, since the bill has retroactive power, it will impact a large number of outstanding applications, some of which date to post September 2007 changes. This will have a very draconian impact on those who have vested countless time, money, and effort to make certain that they meet Australian requirements. Some of these expenses are specifically for immigration purposes, for example the time and money that applicants spend to elevate their English language skills or to meet the requirements of Australian professional bodies. Doubtlessly, the rejection of the applications with any pecuniary reimbursement may not compensate for their sacrifices.

It is understandable that the immigration policies are driven by the demand of the economy. However, the progression of systematic flaws, as well as introduction of unjust and egocentric policies would deteriorate the international reputation of the country. Perhaps, pursuing tighter objectives for immigration requirements with providing advance notice to future applicants may be a reasonable response to the declining demand for the skilled work force. Nevertheless, returning the applications without reasonable grounds to those who have already scarified their life, settled businesses, and created families with the previous promises from the Australian governments is unfair and impedes Australia's international reputation.

Sincerely yours,

The group coordinator, Farzad Alavi Fard.

**This petition is signed by:**

Neda Varzeshi

Michael Collisson

Nick Dorogavtsev

Jessica Maher

Raj Ram Raja

Farbod Zahiri Araghi

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Amin Edalat Noor

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