

From: Shahzaib Gilani [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 February 2021 9:14 PM
To: Committee, Migration (REPS) <migration@aph.gov.au>
Subject: 887 visa processing time

Dear,
Committee Secretary

I lived in regional Australia for 5 years. I was living and working in regional Victoria from last 2 years on 489 regional visa with my wife and newborn son. I contributed in regional Australia's economy by paying taxes. We went overseas in last February to see my ill father and now from last 12 months are stuck overseas and are not able to come back to our home in Australia.

We have applied for 887 permanent residency visa as we completed all the requirements of living and working in regional Australia. Now for 2021 the processing time for 887 visa application is 20 to 25 months, which was 7 to 8 months in 2020.

Department of Home Affairs has reduced the processing speed of 887 visa by assigning fewer case officers than before, with the most recent available data of only 1 case officer per day. The Department should reduce the processing timeframe to 6-8 months or fewer because:

1. Speeding up the grant of permanent residency to 887 applicants can boost or help in recovery of Australia economy by encouraging large spending, especially in real estate markets. We were also planning to buy a house in regional Victoria after getting our permanent residency.
2. Most of the 887 applicants will remain in regional Australia even after the grant of 887 visa as we already have established social networks and career in regional Australia and are unlikely to move to the already overcrowded metropolitan cities.
3. It is unethical for us to wait another 20-26 months for a permanent residency, after fulfilling the obligations of living and working for at least 2 years in regional Australia, while paying taxes and assisted in boosting the regional economy.
4. It is very difficult for us to make big life decisions, such as starting a family or buying the first home, which can be a breach of basic human rights.
5. The processing should be very much straightforward as many of our particulars have been verified through the grant of 489 visa.

Department is giving permanent residence on skill visas for the people who are offshore and never been to Australia while the skilled people who has been living and working in regional Australia from last 2 years are still waiting for 20 to 25 months to get their permanent residency. There are hundreds of 887 applicants like us who are just waiting to get their permanent residency to go on with their life.

Thank you. I hope this issue will be solved in timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

Shahzaib Gilani