

Dear Sir

I am writing concerning the current proposed bill to axe many visa applications which have been submitted.

I feel this is very unfair. In our own case, we are a family of 5, my husband qualifies as a cook, with 14 years experience and we are being sponsored by my brother and sister in law (Both of whom have very good jobs in Australia (One being a lawyer for the government, the other a chief accountant for a huge company) and are desperate for us to join them).

We fell in love with Australia when we visited in 2008. It took us 16 months and £6000 to submit our application. My husband successfully passed his AQFIII as a cook which took a lot of time and money to complete. We have also spent hours collecting together all the information needed for our application, having them certified by solicitors, sitting IELTS tests and much more.

Moving to Australia has consumed our lives for over 2 years and now our dreams may be shattered. I am sure there are many families like our own, having successfully passed a skills assessment and obtained the points necessary for a visa. We will not be able to reapply as my husband will be 45 in July and therefore too old to apply for another visa.

I would ask you to reconsider the bill and think about families like our own who could bring so much to your country and economy and who have put their all into moving to Australia, only to be told 'Sorry we've changed our mind'. I'm sure you can understand that for a family to loose £6000 is devastating too. We have sacrificed so much and our lives have been on hold for 2 years, waiting on our visa being granted and starting our new life in Australia.

We hope you can help keep our dreams alive.

The Maxwell Family