

FAO: The Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

I am writing in regards to the "The Migration Amendment Bill 2010" which is seeking to amend the migration Act 1958. I understand that the purpose of this bill is to enable the current minister for immigration and citizenship to cap visa grants, and terminate visa applications based on the class/classes of applicants applying for the visa.

I wish to lodge my protest for the proposed bill. I applied onshore for my permanent residency in March 2009, under the previous SOL, and am now on bridging visa "A", after gaining a Bachelors of Business, Graduate Diploma of Management, and a Masters in Business Administration from an Australian University. I am currently awaiting the outcome of this application. From my understanding it appears this Bill, contrary to previous assurances for people like myself that the changes to the SOL would affect only applicants who applied for visas from July 1st 2010 onwards, it now means that as my skill is no longer on the SOL list I now face the possibility of my visa being capped or refused. This is contrary to the letter I have from Minister Evans that assured me that all applications lodged before 8th February would not be subject to retrospective legislation with the changes to the SOL, and from what has been written on the DIAC website of the proposed changes. Having looked at the Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010 I see no reference to this clear distinction outlined within the Bill and would ask that this is clearly addressed and clarified for mine and many others peace of mind.

If it is the case with this Bill that Visa applications such as mine are now going to be subject to the new Visa caps and changes to the SOL I need to lodge my protest against what I see as the unfairness of this Bill. I have made a firm commitment to Australia having studied here for three years to gain top academic qualifications, spending approximately \$50,000, and working here since 2009. If this Bill is to be passed in its current form I will feel sorely let down by a country that I feel I have made a firm commitment to and have spent considerable time and money towards being a part of.