



Dear Sir/Madan

I am a registered migration agent and I represent 68 applicants and their families who may be affected by this proposed legislative amendment.

All of these families have invested considerable time, money and emotional effort in preparing their migration applications, which at the time of applying they believed would lead them to new lives in Australia. They are all SKILLED, experienced, speak excellent English and they are all motivated to contribute to Australia's on-going prosperity.

Migration is not an easy decision to make. It means leaving family, friends and your old life for the uncertainty of a new life which they hope will be better for them and their children. To come to the decision to apply, has in every case, meant a great deal of thought and sole searching? They have made a financial and emotional investment in preparing to apply and once they have lodged their applications they have had anticipation that they would be successful, as they have met all of the legislative requirements for their skilled visa application.

If this legislative amendment is passed I believe that the persons effected should not only have their application fees refunded, but they should also be awarded compensation for their financial losses, (fees paid to skills assessment agencies, fees paid to consultants, for English tests and in some cases medicals undertaken) and also more importantly for emotional heartache that they have had to endure. The migration application fee is only a small part of the overall fees they have had to pay to make an application. I believe that a significant compensation should be awarded to in some way make up for their suffering.

For the sake of the thousand of people who have applied in good faith for migration to Australia, I hope that this amendment will not be passed and that the Minister and the Immigration department will find a fair and equitable way to process their migration applications.

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