

Topic: Flood Levy

I'm a professional currently working in Australia on a Bridging Visa A (which is granted to on-shore permanent-residence applicants) since January 2010. Prior to that, I was studying at the University of Queensland from February 2007 to December 2009. I have been an Australian resident for tax purposes for more than 4 years now.

I was living in St Lucia during the recent floods, and the power supply to my townhouse in Saint Lucia was cut for four days. As my power had been cut for more than 48 hours, I applied for the Australian Government's Disaster Relief Payment. However, I was informed by Centrelink that I was not successful because I was not an Australian citizen or permanent resident. I accept that outcome since it was stated in the criteria that applicants must be citizens or permanent residents.

However, if this flood levy passes legislation, I will have to pay this levy even though I was directly affected by the Brisbane flooding in January. I understand that people who receive the Disaster Relief Payment are exempt from the flood levy. I will be affected on two counts. Firstly, I didn't qualify for the Disaster Relief payment and secondly, I will be forced to pay the flood levy even though I was without electricity for four days due to the flooding. I do not think is a fair outcome for myself, and the other Bridging Visa A holders in my position.

Sincerely,

18/04/2011