Inquiry into Australia's skilled migration program Submission 15

I decided to write to you as I don't see any other way out.

I am a 489 visa holder, and now I have already lost one year of our visa and after one year more we will lose any opportunity to apply for the Permanent residence and it means all our effort will be in vain.

It goes without saying that to succeed in the process of professional immigration to Australia takes very much life time, effort and financial resources and after the euphoria of getting the visa grant we were really destroyed by the travel ban! We have left our well-paid jobs to be able to prepare ourselves to make our dream about Australia come true. Our children were suffering for years because of lack of parents' attention, while we were assessing our professional experiences, preparing for qualification and English exams. More than this we deprived ourselves from many things during this hard period to achieve our aim and now we have real legal right to live and work in Australia. We are not leaving now normal life, as it is impossible in this stand-by mode, we are totally depressed and ruined. I don't mention the fact that all these cost us really very big amounts of money!

We understand that the action taken by the government are adequate to the situation and they are important for the protection of Australian society. But at the same time we feel very depressed in this situation and we feel that our rights are violated. We are not tourists, who are just travelling and enjoying their lives, we had made a great work and now we are under most severe psychological and mental pressure, as we understand all these makes our abnormal efforts useless and destroys our lives. So, since our temporary visas have an expiry date and are required to apply for PR (which was our main purpose in applying for these type of visas), special conditions are required for income and presence in regional areas for a specified period of time. As you may know, failure to do this would lead to failure to achieve our main goal and wasting of our life time and great amounts of money.

We keep asking for the exemption, but it looks as there is no hope, though I believe that our conditions are very critical.

I also want to mention the fact, that we are following all the restrictions, taken in our home country and we are also surely ready to follow all the measures taken in Australia, however strict they are. We know that we should pay for the quarantine hotel and stay there for 2 weeks and we are totally ready to obey any restrictions.

Considering the situation caused by COVID 19, we really understand that it's a hard decision to open borders even for people like us, but we believe that it will be honest to make some arrangements for our lost time and extend our visas based on this delay of entry. We believe that the time of visa should be counted from the date that we are allowed to enter the country.

Thank you in advance,

Hope to have some reasonable response for my enquiry.