

Monday, June 07, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

My thoughts on the Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010

I moved to Australia in 2007 from India. I completed my Masters in IT from the University of South Australia in December 2008 and applied for GSM (885) in February 2009. My next step was to find a job in my field of studies which proved to be an extremely tedious exercise as the economy was hit by the Global Financial Crisis. I tried looking for a job in Adelaide for 6 months, with no luck. Finally, I was able to secure a position in a public sector department in Sydney. The position is full time, temporary for 3 years. My employer is more than happy with my performance and is willing to sponsor me. The position is IT related, but being a fresh graduate, the position does not pay me the minimum salary required to be considered for ENS (Employer Sponsored) application. Hence I can not apply for ENS, the transitive method for current applicants indicated by Minister Chris Evans. Full time positions that offer higher salaries require you to have PR (Permanent Residence) but the minister wants us to have a high paying position before we get our PR. How fair is that?

Minister says that students were never given a hope that their education will lead to PR after studying a particular course. When we came to Australia, we were given a hope that if we do well in our areas of study, if we study in a regional area and meet the minimum English language requirements, we will be able to get our PR. I would like to ask the Minister what was the reason behind allocating 5 points to education received in regional areas? Clearly, this told the students that 'these points will help you to get your PR'. We studied hard, lived in regional areas, met English level requirements (I scored 8/9 points in IELTS). After doing all the things that we were told to do, how can the minister say that some of these applications will be deemed to be never have been made? We did make the applications following all the rules/guidelines at the time of lodgment and are still following them.

My and many other people's applications have been placed in a queue and we were 'told' to wait. The minister is now proposing to axe applications from thousands of people who came to this country after following the rules/guidelines laid by the country. Some of us have been waiting a year, two years or three years for a decision. We have not only invested money and time in this country, we have tunneled our lives into a totally different lifestyle compared to our home countries, made new friends, are in relationships with local Australian people, put our lives on hold, all because we were told that if we followed the rules/guidelines our dreams will become reality. Very recently we were reassured that as long as our applications were in the system we would have every chance of securing a visa.

This proposed bill is unfair in so many ways as it eats at the core of Australian fairness for all those people who have sacrificed so much in making sure they meet Australia's requirements, lodged perfectly good applications, and then had to wait patiently whilst their applications and lives have been put on hold for an indefinite amount of time.

I would like to remind the minister that it is human beings this bill is going to impact on, not just the numbers or figures on his spreadsheet. I love this country and I am in love with someone who was born in this country. I will fight until my last breath to be given the right to live here.

Don't you think I have the right for my application to be processed under the laws/guidelines that were existent at the time I made my application? I would totally understand if the visa capping bill were only be intended to be applied to future PR applications, but it is unfair in so many ways to also be meant for applications that were already lodged. It is not fair to cancel my or any other applicant's application and act like we never lodged it. The reason is because WE DID lodge it, and behind that lodgment, there are sacrifices, emoticons, hopes, dedication and years of time. Behind these lodgments, there are peoples lives and their future.

Kind Regards,
885 GSM Applicant
Currently working for a NSW Govt. Department