

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

I am a Sri Lankan citizen who has been in Australia for two years from 2006-2008. I completed an Advanced Diploma in Accountancy at TAFE-SA with the intention of completing my degree at a reputed university in Adelaide.

At the time of completion of my diploma I was eligible to apply for a 176 GSM visa under the occupation "Branch Accountant" with an IELTS score of 7.5. I lodged my application in January 2008 and was sponsored by my Uncle who is an Australian citizen. The only reason why I had to apply for an offshore visa was due to the fact that my father was very ill at that time and being the only child I had to attend at his help. I rushed back home in March 2008 being told by my agent that I will be getting my visa within 8 months. With that in my mind I took care of my father who was bedridden until he passed away in Feb 2009.

I have been following ACCA since I came back home and have been working as an Accounts Executive. I have always had the dream of going back to Australia in order to finish an MBA. Since I had good faith that my visa will be granted in the near future I wanted my girlfriend to continue her higher studies in Australia as well. Being an Engineering graduate herself she applied for a PHD scholarship in Australia for which she got qualified. She is supposed to start her studies in July 2010 and the separation has hit the both of us very hard. I am in such a dilemma with the proposed change of rules which might cease my application and consequently separate me from my girlfriend for the next 4 years.

If I was told by DIAC that my application will not be finalized, I wouldn't have asked my girlfriend to apply to an Australian Uni. This uncertainty has caused a lot of emotional distress to the both of us and I am very much worried that a termination of my application might terminate all our future plans as a couple as well.

I perfectly understand that the Australian government has the total right in accepting the migrants in demand only. But it is unfair for us who never had the warning of being disqualified after a painful wait of more than 2 years during which we lost an important time of our lives planning the future in your beautiful country which may never come. Finally I request you to consider my stress along with the thousands of people waiting and make the amendments as humane as possible.

Thank you.

176 Family sponsored Applicant.