

Honorable members of the Senate,

I am writing to you because I have just read about the proposed "cap and cease" Bill that might come into effect as soon as you give your approval to it. I strongly urge you not to acknowledge this Bill. It is inhuman, extremely unfair and will strongly damage Australia's international reputation.

Whilst I fully understand the position of the Minister of Immigration and also know that he is only acting for the country's best, this is not the way human beings ought to be treated. Tens of thousands of people across the globe have spent enormous efforts and money in preparing their migration just to be left in limbo for years and to eventually having their application capped and ceased now because the government decides to change the laws retrospectively. It's not the prospective migrants who made the mistake. They did everything right and followed all the given rules and obligations at the time they decided to leave everything behind and to plan a new life dedicated to Australia.

They've spent a lot of money and time on getting a job-recognition done, paying an agent or taking English-tests to fulfill the language-requirements. They've paid even more AU\$ for the visa-application keeping the promise in mind that once the application is lodged not many things can happen. Far wrong! How is Australia, a modern democracy, planning to treat them now?

I am an ICT-professional and after spending 7 months in Australia on a working holiday visa back in 2007 I cannot think of any better place to live and work. So does my wife and therefore right after coming back to our home country I sorted out my options, found a legal way to migrate and finally started preparing the GSM-application. It took me almost 14 months and a mentionable amount of money to get all the requirements done.

I took three months to write 50 pages for my job-recognition (450 AU\$), I sat two IELTS-tests (250AU\$ each) in order to have an above-average score to earn some extra points for the visa, I paid my agent 3000\$ for her services plus 2525 AU\$ on top for the DIAC-fees. And of course there are the fees for copies, official documents, postage, translations and so forth.

Given the new law comes into effect all this money apart from the DIAC-fee would simply be gone and all the efforts put in this dream would have been for nothing. My job-profile has been cancelled from the new job-list effective as of July 2010 and although I handed in my application before any major changes were announced, the new law would give the Minister the power to cap and cease my application as and when he pleases. We stopped planning our further lives in our home country since it heavily depends on the DIAC decision. As many others I did nothing wrong, quite the contrary, I gave my best and took many hurdles in order to fulfill the requirements specified by the DIAC at the time I lodged my application.

As already mentioned at the beginning of this letter it is absolutely necessary to adapt the migration program to the country's needs but you should impose these changes to new applications only and not for the ones handed in under completely different circumstances. This is unfair and not absolutely not Australian.

I have a little son aged 18 months. I would love to see him growing up in the country my wife and me love so much. Please give three the chance to be proud Australians by not passing this law.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this