



AUSTRALIAN
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2nd June 2010

Senate Committee

Re: Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my total dissatisfaction and distaste with the manner in which the Immigration portfolio is being managed through the current issues they face.

The thought that the solution to the backlog of legitimately lodged permanent visa applications is to throw them back in the faces of the innocent party (the visa applicants) is abhorrent.

I cannot believe that any Australian government would think this disregard for fair process and lack of appreciation of the lengths that these applicants have gone through belong in a modern democracy.

Thousands of young skilled people have put their lives on hold, have mortgaged theirs and their relatives (in many cases) futures, and courteously followed all of Australia's well promoted visa requirements.

They have invested some up to 5 years of their lives through study, fair lodgement of visa applications, worked here, paid taxes here, started families, assimilated into their local communities and because the Immigration department has mismanaged their numbers, they are going to be told, "bad luck mate". This legislation is draconian and totally unfair.

I think the damage that this will do to Australia's international reputation and our potential to attract future skilled migrants will be enormous. It will also cause immense psychological and financial pain to the many people who followed all the correct processes and I hate to think how they will cope individually and as a group if this legislation ever is enacted.

There has to be some sense of accrued rights here. The current visa applicants have committed enormous financial and emotional resources all at the beckon of Australia's immigration and educational industries. They will go back to their home countries well behind others who stayed at home and will suffer even more trying to get their lives back on track. Imagine if all the public servants just had their ComSuper wiped out because the government had mismanaged that fund. There would be an expectation that the government would come up with a solution that did not mean the losing of accrued rights. Well that is the same for these visa applicants who have moved to Australia years ago, done everything they were told to do to get a permanent visa and now will be told to go home.

The idea that they can go and get an Australia job offer in their chosen profession as an alternative is not supported by the statistics. It is absolutely out of kilter with what the job market is like for young graduates. Our Australian graduates struggles to get an immediate job offer in a highly skilled vacancy in their chosen profession. So imagine how hard that is for a person sitting on a bridging visa patiently waiting for the Australian government to process their totally valid applications.

If this legislation is enacted it will overturn 100 years of fair and equitable immigration policy. And it will totally devastate the lives of thousands of young skilled visa applicants who followed out laws and requirements as required.

Yours sincerely

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