

To whom it may concern,

I am not sure who will be reading this letter, but I am sure my heart is broken, again. I feel so disappointed about politicians in Australia.

I am an immigrant myself from China. It has been almost 4 years since I applied for a permanent resident visa, I am still waiting, for a decision to be made. The processing time is becoming ridiculous under the current administration. Without that piece of approval letter, I don't have access to many jobs and benefits I could have if I were a permanent resident. Now, I am facing this kind of discrimination, again. I have been thinking about joining the Australian Defence Force for a while. If my visa could be granted earlier, and with the current residency requirement (4 year total, 1 year PR), I could be joining the force very soon (exactly 1 year after my PR is granted). If this ridiculous bill gets passed, I must wait 8 years more. How many 8 years do you have in your entire life? Now I am in my mid-20s, 8 years would make me mid-30s. Immigrants have made great contributions to Australia and more and more discrimination is what immigrants are getting. Our neighbour country New Zealand is friendlier to immigrants as I can see. Permanent residents can vote in NZ, even joining the army.

Also for English (or should I say language) requirement, many of the eligible residents have had their English proficiency proved. (mostly IELTS band 6-8) I can't see the reason why would the tests should be taken once more for many. Also, English is only the most spoken and used language in Australia. There is no official language in Australia as I last check. Why would it be a requirement to obtain Australian citizenship? This reminds me of the White Australia Policy. I cannot imagine that would happen again, in the 21st century. However, it is indeed happening, again, slowly and gradually. Politicians like Pauline Hanson only like to please their voters and get re-elected. Permanent residents don't have the rights to vote, and their rights gets sacrificed first. The current administration proposed cuts for commonwealth support to permanent residents seeking for higher education, luckily it did not go through. Otherwise my wife would not afford to study in master's degree. (Citizens can apply for loans, but permanent residents can not.)

Ms Pauline Hanson would not care about immigrants that is just how she is. I just would like to remind the others, whoever is reading, you or someone above that bloodline was an immigrant once. There are real people's lives will be affected by this bill. My wife and I, as many other people, their trajectory of lives will be affected by this bill, in a bad way, and a sad way.

Best,