

31 May 2010

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

I am absolutely disgusted in the Bill which is waiting to be heard regarding the visa ceasing and capping. I don't agree with the cap and cease approach and feel that it is very unfair and in humane.

I came to Australia in September 2006 on a student visa bringing with me my husband and 15 year old son. It was probably one of the hardest decisions of my life taking my son away from his grandparents let alone me from my mum, dad & sisters not to mention friends we have had most of our lives. We have been through the home sickness stage and come out the other end and I can surely state that we all love living here and now call Australia home.

When we arrived in Australia I had already got enrolled in a school and paid my first term at \$10,000.00. The college I attended was overcrowded, not enough classrooms and no hairdresser clients coming through the college. I decided after thinking long and hard over the six months I attended the college, also overhearing a teacher tell a student to pretend to do a cut and she would sign off the hair style as competent that I needed to find another college as I believed this college was just a visa college! I did go along to immigration in Dandenong and told them what had happened and they confirmed that I could change colleges. I believed that if I had stayed at the first college I would have received my permanent residency by now, but because I wanted to do things right it seems I have shot myself in the foot. I changed colleges and started from start again at a cost of \$17,000.00 I finished my course, passed and started working at a place where I did my work experience (I still work there).

Over the three plus years we have paid out:

Rent \$42,240.00

My college fees \$27,000.00

My son's school fees \$24,000.00

Household bills approx \$12,500.00

Medibank approx \$1,200.00

Two lots of medicals the UK and Australia

Two lots of police checks UK and Australia

Two cars purchased \$18,000.00 this is just to name a few there have been other fees etc.

Our son has passed year 11 & 12 and wants to get an apprenticeship but no-one will give him a go as he is a temp resident. This is not fair that a young boy's life is in the balance like this, if we were to take him back to England none of the qualifications gained here would be recognised there.

My husband has been employed by the same company now for 2 years and he is fully settled into his work.

Before moving to Australia in 2006 we re-mortgaged our property in England to raise capital to enable the move. We have rented out our property in England but if we were granted our permanent residency visa we were going to sell the property in England and transfer the funds to Australia.

I am still working in the hairdressing trade and am very dedicated to my work. I travel one hour there and one hour back, I cannot see myself doing any other job. I cannot see me having to uproot my family back to the UK this is just not right it is inhumane to cease peoples application. If my application is ceased this will mean I cannot even appeal against the decision!

If I have to end up taking my family back to England we will have more costs, shipping furniture, flights, insurance to name a few.

I am pleading with you to try and raise this issue in Parliament, not just my own but others who are in the same position. My family have never asked for anything and we do not intend to, but I do ask for fair treatment in cases such as this.

I am a very unhappy person with regards to this bill! Hairdressers I think they get a rough ride what if the bill passes all hairdressers get ceased NOT FAIR as I am doing the job I came here to do!

Regards