



Our reference: GZC
Contact: Gabrielle Canny

A 159 Gawler Place
ADELAIDE SA 5000
www.lsc.sa.gov.au
Postal Address:
GPO Box 1718
ADELAIDE SA 5001
DX 104
T (08) 8111 5596
F (08) 8111 5594
TTY 133 677 then ask for 1300 366 424
Legal Help Line 1300 366 424

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT

LegCon.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dunstone,

Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2019

I refer to your email of 11 July 2019.

The Legal Services Commission of South Australia provides legal advice and assistance in on-shore migration matters. In the 2018/2019 financial year we provided services to 384 clients, of which 38 clients sought advice regarding visa cancellation on character grounds.

While the Commission understands the importance of keeping the public safe from criminal acts, we are concerned about the lack of awareness of these laws on the part of persons residing in Australia pursuant to visas, particularly those persons who arrived in Australia as children. We believe many such persons would seek citizenship in adulthood if they were made aware by government of their visa status. Returning such persons to a country of origin from which they have been absent for most of their lives has the potential to cause problems for the country to which they are returned and for their families in Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle Z Canny
Director