

Dear Senators

I wish to include my family's situation regarding the proposed bill.

My husband and I are both UK trained health care professionals (General Physician and Radiographer respectively)

I qualified in 1992 and have had the opportunity to progress in my career to a superintendent post in charge of clinical education in a large UK training hospital. My experience includes a number of specialisms both in the UK and Australia.

My husband qualified in 1996 and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and has completed the post graduate diploma in Tropical Medicine

We have a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to offer the country.

We came to Australia in February 2007. A number of issues both professional and personal helped us decide our timing and route to permanent residency. My husband initially worked in regional Queensland but unfortunately the Hospital was still awaiting accreditation for basic training. We moved to NSW so he could complete his 'basic training' accreditation for the Australian College of Physicians.

When he accepted this post he was under the impression his employer would be able to sponsor us for permanent residency.

I left my job in Queensland when we moved and due to local childcare issues I have been working intermittently in locum jobs in regional areas, taking our child with me.

We were told in February that my husband's employer were unable to sponsor as the position is classed (by the DIAC) as a doctor in training 2311-81 an intern or RMO e.g. Equivalent to a graduate with at most 3 year post graduation and not on the ENSOL.

Truly an insult to my husband who works long hours, stays late (no overtime is paid) and supports his less experienced colleagues. His job title is a medical registrar not RMO or intern. I foolishly thought I was best to support him in the last 2 years by not pursuing my own career but providing full care for our son and supporting him whilst he studies for his FRCAP (the equivalent to his qualifications already obtained in the UK). I have not worked enough hours over the last two years to apply via my qualifications and experience.

Will cap and cease improve our lot? I suspect not.

I imagine we will be eligible for GSM when it is restated, but of course this could change if the application criteria are altered.

I include our submission for a number of reasons.

1) I constantly hear Mr Evans saying we don't want doctor's waiting behind x number of other applicants. I suggest he looks at policy relating to overseas doctors and ENS not use us as an excuse to fix the 'broken system'

2) I agree the GSM system needs review. I find in life when fine adjustments are needed a screwdriver will suffice; hitting it with a sledge hammer rarely does the trick.

3) This bill we have far reaching affects towards attracting highly skilled overseas migrants. A 'lottery' system that can constantly change is not an attractive proposition.

4) In my opinion the bill is not worded specifically. I think the minister should show his intentions and then have to deal with backlash and potential law suits. Good luck with that one.

5) We are here sitting on a temporary visa like so many others. We have made our lives here, love the Australian way of life, pay taxes, enjoy being part of our community and

we are all 28 days away from getting the 'heave ho'  
I hope you read these submissions and remember behind every visa is a human story.  
My kindest regards.