

Date: 04/02/2021

**Subject:** To Whom it may concern

The past following years have not been easy for anyone in the world. It wasn't easy for me too. I am a 2019 graduate and currently in the Temporary Graduate visa expiring in November 2021. The Covid Pandemic hit International students like me the hardest in my opinion. In the first few months I lost some job although I was moving forward with gaining the Permanent Residency as I have been in this country for few years already now and had a dream like other people did. International students were not part of any Job keeper program which is completely acceptable. I am a Software Engineer and Developer Programmer but currently not working in the relevant field as I am still looking forward for it. For graduates like me Covid made it harder to find the job and most of the Companies prefer PR or Australian Citizen over the Temporary Visa holders. I was in Dilemma in what to get first a PR or a IT job. People who lodged their EOI until February with the points 90 easily got invited and hopefully they will be granted a PR soon. I did everything on time like Professional Year, PTE (English Exam), NAATI (Language test), Partner's Skill Assessment and so on exactly on time even without wasting a single day. I also spent a lot of money while doing those things. I lodged my EOI in September. I live in NSW and looks like they only invite people who have work experience in relevant field which I don't have. The other option for me in 189 Skilled independent which is only around 6500 seats now and is almost impossible for people like me to get it even with as maximum points I get without job experience. I don't know what mistake else I have done apart from getting an IT job but I am starting to get feared to get back to another visa's again and start from the bottom. I did have good grades in my University and when I visit consultancy and migration agents, they are suggesting me to move towards regional areas for PR purposes. I am so disappointed to see these things happening with the points that I have and skills that I have. If Policies hadn't been changing then I would have obviously received my invitation as well but on top of Covid the government policies for migration kept on changing and it has been creating a hardship for a lot of people with the borders shut and everything going up and down. I hope there comes a policy for people like me to get some hope at least that we will be recognized for the future. Maybe the government can support us by providing invitations at the moment but cutting out the Health and Centrelink benefits for 5-10 years but all we need now is a assurance that we have a place in Australia. It really has been a depressing and sad moment for all of us and especially for me but I don't want to mention my personal problems here as I know everyone would be having those. As the borders are shut and students are not coming at least something must be done to look after the people who are stuck here. There was little opportunity for people like me during the Pandemic and the hardship just kept on going on without providing any benefits for us. We already have suffered a lot and we don't want to suffer more with these strong immigration programs. On top of all these, Anyone in Skill select can submit EOIs with fake data and the invitations are sent out without checking on those facts which is a waste of invitation too. I hope proper checks are done and invitations are only sent to genuine people and students. I am worried more that my visa is expiring other than anything and I now have to start planning for alternative solutions. I hope some of the people read out this message and if there is anything that can be clarified to me, I am open to hear about it. I know the economy of Australia is down and everything is going hard but We being humans feel like we are being punished too hardly. Please forgive us if we have done mistakes. This is a message of hope to get some good news in the future. Thanks for reading the message.