

Dear Minister and Members,

I am an applicant of Australian Skilled Independent Visa. My application has been assessed in progress and I have been waiting for a long time. Recently, my wife and me find a news about 'Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010' which proposed by Immigration Department last month. It is very hard for us to understand the purpose of the policies in this proposal. Meanwhile, if the Capping Bill is adopted by the Parliament, it will bring a monstrous meltdown to those innocent visa applicants like me. Moreover, if the Capping Bill finally becomes true, I believe that it will also bring great negative effects to the Australian national image around the world. It is not exaggerate to say that there are a number of innocent people deceived by the Immigration Department and Australian government. Especially, in the proposal, Immigration Department requires a power that allows them to suspend or cut off the applications which has met all the requirements, even turn the applications back to the applicants. Obviously, it is unfair for most of applicants.

According to the content of this proposal, I believe that it is unfair for the applicants who have submitted the applications based on following reasons:

Firstly, most of PR applicants have been in Australia for more than two years. They submit the PR applications under the migration policies of the day of lodged and have held bridging visa for a long time. We handed in the applications, which means that we have planned our future in Australia and intended to live in Australia permanently. We have paid a lot for this plan. For example, we have found a job based on our major; we have prepared many living necessity and facilities in Australia. We have rent a house and signed contracts with real estate agents and other service companies like telephone, internet, utilities, mobile phone and so on. If on some day in the future, the Immigration Department suddenly announced that our applications are rejected since the migration quota of this financial year has been reached, according to the proposal, we will be asked to leave Australia in 28 days. We will have too many things to do in 28 days and all of these immolations are meaningless. Moreover, some service companies as I mentioned above will claim compensation from us due to the early termination of the contracts. They are not the Immigration Department, and will never understand our difficulties. Therefore, we have to pay a great amount of money to these companies without any excuses. The final result would be that we have bad credit records in these companies and have to leave Australia within 28 days in a hurry.

Secondly, although Immigration Department will return the application fees with applications, that are only a small part of cost that we spend on PR applications. We have spent a lot before the submission of the applications. Except the cost mentioned in first point, there are many other cost on document preparation such as fees of health exam (It has a one year term of validity, if the time of assessment exceeds one year, we have to do the exam again.), fees of police check in both Australia and country of origin, fees of skill assessment and so on. If our applications have to be returned only because of the quota, it is really unfair to us.

Thirdly, as one of many PR visa applicants, we meet the Australian migration requirements and achieved the score of immigration legally. However, nowadays the time of assessment (2 or more than 2 years) is too long compared with before. It is already unfair to us, because of the different treatments towards the person with bridging visa and permanent residence visa in the society. If during the waiting period, our applications are rejected, for a normal applicant it would be a destructive harm. Therefore, I hope that every Member of Parliament can understand us and our difficulties. People holding a bridging visa like me are living in fear everyday. They are afraid that the applications will be rejected due to the quota limitation or change of policies. At the beginning of this year, we were so glad to see that the Immigration Department makes the date of 8 February 2010 as an interim. The applicants within the reasonable range would not be affected. However, when we saw this recent proposal, we feel that we are totally betrayed by the Immigration Department.

Finally, as Australian PR applicants, we have been living in Australia for many years. We contributed a lot to the Australian economy. We enhanced the expenditure in many aspects like

education, tourism. When your economy has improved, we become unnecessary, so you plan to reject our applications. That is unacceptable. Hence, to cut off our application due to economic problem is totally unreasonable. Turn to the other Australian social problems, the responsibilities should not fall on those innocent applicants. It should be the responsibilities of the Australian government. Since you have accepted our applications and we have met your requirements, you should not conduct as what is said in the recent proposal.

I implore Member of Parliament to make a fair decision while not to make a wrong destructive decision. Too many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

An applicant who is waiting for PR assessment in pain