

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you in response to the proposed bill which will potentially allow the Minister of Immigration to cap & cease all GSM applications, including those onshore ones. After reading this news I felt it was my obligation, like many others in the same situation as me, to voice my extreme concerns regarding this plan, in particular for those individuals who have been living, working and paying taxes in Australia for significant amounts of time on Bridging or Temporary Visas.

I have currently been in Australia since June 2007 and after studying for two years applied for my Graduate 485 visa & my 885 family sponsored visa in July 2009. I secured a job in my nominated occupation of Marketing Specialist just one week after completing my studies (which again were related to my nominated occupation) and I have been working in it since.

When I read that there may be the potential for my application to be capped & ceased it filled me with absolute terror that I could potentially be asked to leave the country within 28 days. With all respect, myself like many others have built lives for ourselves here, have fully integrated ourselves into the Australian way of life, have friends, family, partners & employment here. Put simply this is our home now. To think that we spend thousands of dollars bettering our employment opportunities in this country by studying then lodged our applications legitimately only to be told sorry you now have to leave your family, partners, jobs and friends is simply immoral and must be reconsidered.

My entire family lives here, including my Mother & Father who are both citizens, my brother who is a permanent resident and my other brother who is currently applying for a defacto visa on the basis of having an Australian partner. I have been working toward being in a situation where I can spend my life in this country with my family. The thought of being sent home after all the time & money we have invested here almost brings me to tears.

I believe, like many others living onshore whilst their applications are processed, that I am of value to Australia. I understand that there is a significant backlog of applications and it is problematic but what about those people who have children in school here, have financial and employment commitments here or whose loved ones are here?

For us living with the constant fear that even though we have lodged our applications fairly the lives we have built here still may be taken away from us at any moment is unjust and I am pretty sure many other tax payers and voters would see it the same way

Regards

Jessica Lupton