

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am writing to complain about Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010.

I have just heard Australian Government have discussed with Immigration Policy. However I disagree with that. This is because my husband and I have already applied for permanent residential visas last year and also we have spent a lot of money and a long time to get them.

When we were visiting Australia in 2003, we were surprised to see many people of all ages enjoying snack foods as they were walking along the streets. It was surprising because usually people do not eat and walk at the same time in Japan.

We started to wonder if there were any Japanese snacks which Australia could enjoy while they walked. So when we got back to Japan we started to look around and we came across "Tokyo Sweets". "Tokyo Sweets" are a bit of Japanese meets Western – a round sponge cake ball with delicious fillings made according to traditional Japanese methods.

We approached the "Tokyo Sweets" retailer in Japan, Mr. Sakai, and told him of our dream. He agreed to take us under his wing and over a period of nine months he taught us everything we needed to know about making "Tokyo Sweets", from the setting up of the equipment, preparation of the batter and actual cooking.

First of all, we looked for the business partner or visa sponsor. However, we could not find them. However, we found when we finished the course of TAFE college, we could apply for permanent residential visas. My husband decided to go into the school. He studied very hard and also worked at Wombats bakery of The Bellarine Peninsula. He cooked and sold our products there as well.

My husband has been working at the same place since 2007. Our products become popular, so we have sold over 130,000 pieces. We have been donating money to our local community for four years. This is because many children have bought our products and we hope to contribute something to the community and bring smiles to the faces of Australians through "Tokyo Sweets". We will try our best to give many people jobs through our shops.

If the new bill passed, we must go back to Japan. We will be very shocked. First, our dream could not come true. Secondly, we could not thank enough and repay the obligation to many people who have been helping us. Thirdly, all our efforts would come to nothing. You said a cap will have their visa application charge refunded to them. However, the most important thing is time. We used a lot of time to apply for. If you could not give us the visas, we would not apply for them from the beginning.

I am helping Holie who is a high school student learn Japanese. Also, I attend at mother's group and taught Australian mothers Japanese, Japanese cooking and so on. Some people come over to Australia to be happy just themselves, but we are different. We hope to promote friendship between Australia and Japan.

Please consider our situation. I hope the bill will not pass.

Yours faithfully,

2/6/2010

