

Respected Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee,

I am writing to you as an international student to express some of my thoughts of recent changes in immigration policy.

I understand that population growth brought some negative effect to the nation, however, I personally think the advantages international students brought excel the disadvantages.

Firstly, a large amount of international students stimulate the food industry's development. Not only it brings large contribution to the national economy, but also it diversifies local people's life. I have a friend who works in the food court of Chinatown, they get up at 6 to prepare for the food, especially on Saturday and Sunday, when most of people are sleeping. By noon they have all the food prepared so people can go there and enjoy a happy meal on a weekend. Without immigrates such as my friend, I think the food catering would be a lack here.

Secondly, international students stimulates the education industry and tourism. I studied in Sydney University and one of our teachers once told us that every single year the profits brought by international students are as high as 14 or 140 billions. I am not sensitive to numbers but I personally assume this is a very big amount. What's more, these international students have friends, family, relatives in their home country, who would travel in Australia, or even consider to study here as well. This would be a large contribution to the economy as well.

Thirdly, the property industry. I will give you one example: I used to study in Sydney University and I lived in Ultimo, which is one of the fastest growing areas in Sydney. You must all know that ultimo used to be a factory area, it does not even have any bus or traffic lights now still, but with the development of education industry, this is a very expensive area now, as it is close to Sydney University, UTS, TAFE and some others. I'd also like to say that I worked in a property company before, most of our clients are international students. They are sick of moving from houses to houses and looking for apartments or beating other competitive tenants, instead, they bought a property with some of financial support from their parents, some of them even bought 2 or 3 and develop it into a professional career. My personal experience is that everyday I can hear my friends, classmates or teachers asking me where do I suggest to buy a property or questions related to this. I can hardly imagine what the property industry would be like without their involvement.

Having said so, you might worry that as a foreigner, we international students might feel hard to fit in. I would like to point out that as students we are educated and we have certain skill or knowledge as long as we plan to live here on a long-term. We are attracted by Australian's dynamic and diversified living environment and culture, also its excellent education system, we pay our rent or tax or cars, we work part-time hardly, and we feel fulfilled. We realized how different this country is from where we were from but we still chose to live here, that must meant something here means a lot to us.

Please do consider what we think and thank you a lot.

Sincerely,  
Amanda