

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would to comment on the following proposal due to go before the Senate Committee in June 2010.

“On 26 May 2010 the Senate referred the Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010 for inquiry and report.

The Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010 (the Bill) seeks to amend the Migration Act 1958 to enable the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (the Minister) to cap visa grants and terminate visa applications based on the class or classes of applicant applying for the visa. In particular, the Bill would enable the Minister to make a legislative instrument to determine the maximum number of visas of a specified class or classes that may be granted in a financial year to visa applicants with specified characteristics, and treat outstanding applications for the capped visa as never having been made. The proposed amendments are intended to address issues relating to the General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa program.

Submissions should be received by **04 June 2010**. The reporting date is **15 June 2010**.”

I am strongly opposed to this legislation being passed and would urge the Senate committee to reject this proposal.

Not only do I believe that such legislation would be draconian, I also feel it this allows the Minister to play politics with people's lives far too much. Applicants have made their applications in good faith based on the requirements that were placed before them. It would seem grossly unfair to retrospectively shift the goal posts now, particularly in a country where we proudly promote our “fair go” philosophy.

In particular, those applicants that have applied Onshore, have met all requirements of their visa, are currently working full time in Australia (particularly Regional Australia) and are contributing to Australian society should not have their applications revoked or removed. This, in my opinion and the opinion of any right minded person would be unfair and un-Australian.

Such legislation would badly damage Australia reputation overseas and call into question our moral values. I respectfully urge all Senate Committee members to reject this legislation not only on behalf of the applicants but also on behalf of the people of Australia.

Kind regards,

Nick Francis