

Australia should have a system of immigration where outcomes are predictable and regulations are transparent to allow applicants to plan their lives around a system that is not subject to the whims of politicians reacting to polling or political cycles. We should not be dramatically changing the playing field every 5 minutes. It is unfair to people who have planned their future around the simple expectation that DIAC rules, stringent as they may be, are at least predictable and transparent.

Not only is that unjust and unfair but it puts at risk the economic benefit that Australia derives from its migrant population, in this particular case it might damage our Education Export sector.

My understanding is that Senator Evans, The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship wants the power to cap the number applications approved within the General Skilled Migration program that fall under certain trades and professions. Is this not the same Minister for Immigration and Citizenship who once opined that he had too much discretionary power as the The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship? Unfortunately he was correct when he offered that opinion and he is incorrect now as he argues for the introduction for MORE discretionary executive powers under this new Bill.

This will NOT discourage people for applying for student visas with a view to applying for permanent residency at a later date. What it stands a real chance of doing is discouraging skilled migrants from considering a move to Australia at all. News will reach far and wide that Australia likes to move the goal posts every five minutes and if you want a safer future it is better to take your skills elsewhere.