

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter to express my strong opposition to the Migration Amendment Visa Capping Bill 2010.

I submitted my application for offshore 175 Skilled Independent Migration on October 25, 2007 and have been waiting desperately for a positive outcome desperately ever since. I have spent a totality of more than 7000 thousand Australian dollars on my application, including agent fees, nominated occupation accreditation, IELTS test fees, application fees, police check, medical examination and other application related expenses. I also worked very hard to meet all the requirements set by the government for immigration into Australia. For instance, I got at least 7 for each of the band in the IELTS test, which is very difficult for people from non-English speaking countries to achieve. The background investigation carried out on June, 2008 also went well. I thought my application would be finalised soon at that time.

Unfortunately, the unexpected financial process had led the government to introduce the priority processing policy and mine nominated occupation is not in the priority list. I fully understand the government's intention to address this difficult situation and wait patiently for a finalisation of my application since they have promised us that our application would be processed in accordance with the priority processing list. I trust what the Australian government has said because in people's opinion (including mine), fairness and equally opportunities are what Australia is all about.

To ensure that I can quickly adjust to the Australian way of life and find a job to support myself while making contributions to the Australian economy when my application for permanent residence is approved, I quitted my job in my home country in July 2009 and came to Sydney on a student visa to take course closely associated with my nominated occupation on a Master's level up to now. The tuition fee has already cost me almost 30,000 Australian dollars up to now. When added by the monthly living expense of nearly 1,000 Australian dollars, the total amount has already reached 40,000 Australian dollars. But I think it is worth the investment since I can be in a better position to make contributions to the Australian economy by using the knowledge and skills acquired in Australian universities. To this end, I have been working hard on my studies and got distinctions on half of the subjects I have already taken. In my spare time, I also try my best to localize myself through joining the membership of a fitness club and attending church activities on the weekends. I have gotten to know many kind, helpful and friendly local people in this way and found myself really love Australia, the Australian people and the Australian way of life. Though still an international student, I have already made myself part of Australia. This is going to be the place where I will spend the rest of my life and I am already ready for that.

However, the constant change in immigration policy in recent months has caused me great anxiety on the realization of my Australian dream, particularly the proposed visa capping bill. I'm quite supportive that the immigration programme should be restructured to be better directed at the demand of the Australian job market such as the introduction of the new SOL, but as an applicant, I think it will be totally unfair to cap and cease applications that have already been lodged. The applicants have all met

the requirements set out by the government when the applications are made. It is not their fault if the economy went bad and that there is now a huge backlog of applications in the pipeline. I am not a law expert, but I still have the common sense that there is no such a thing called retrospect in the law settings. What is even more absurd is that the government now is trying to depriving of the rights of people to appeal by legalizing this and treating the applications as have never been made. In such cases, it is those offshore applicants who are always the first to suffer. And the government is trying to make up the loss of the applicants simply by a refunding of the application fees. If this is so, then how will other application related expenses and most importantly, the time spent waiting for the result and the mental distress caused by the incessant changes in policies without prior notice be compensated? This is totally unfair and inhumane. It will greatly damage Australia's international reputation of fairness and equality and is what a responsible government should never do.

The introduction of the new SOL and the annual adjustment on this list will already be enough to redirect the migration programme to the long-term benefits of the Australia economy. I propose that the government should allocate a majority of the quota to the applicants whose nominated occupations are on the new SOL list and the rest to those previous applicants whose processing of applications has been delayed every year in order to reduce the backlog on a gradual basis. I think this will be a fair solution to the problem for both parties.

Please give a chance to those applicants who have been waiting for so long and who really want to call Australia home and do not pass this visa capping bill!

Thanks for reading my letter and looking forward to a positive outcome!

Cheers,