

MIGRATION AMENDMENT (VISA CAPPING) BILL 2010
****SENATE INQUIRY SUBMISSION ****

June 1, 2010

Mobile:

To Whom It May Concern

I write in relation to the senate enquiry into Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010.

It is my understanding that the Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010 seeks to amend the Migration Act 1958 to enable the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to cap visa grants and terminate visa applications based on the class or classes of applicants applying for the visa. Further my understanding is that this 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.

In my opinion this is totally unfair and does great damage to Australia's international reputation. I came to Australia in February 2007 to complete my bachelor's degree at the Edith Cowan University (ECU). I completed my course with an outstanding course average of a Distinction. I also received an award of the top 100 students in the whole of ECU. When I graduated I also received the Golden Key award. I then completed my Post Graduate Diploma, again with an outstanding course average of a Distinction. I applied for the Graduate Skilled Migration program in February 2009 with the understanding that the migration laws then would apply to the final decision made.

Since March 2007 I have been working both part-time during University and full-time on holidays, and am now working full-time at the Department of Treasury and Finance in my nominated occupation and as a casual lecturer at the Perth Institute of Business and Technology teaching a Computer Applications unit. This means that I have been paying taxes just like any other Australian citizen therefore contributing equally to the Australian economy. Having lived in Australia for all this time, the thought of having even to return back to some other place and start all over again is extremely daunting. Not to mention the amount of hard work I have put in, the amount of stress I have endured throughout this process, the amount of hard earned money I have spent to date since my arrival, and also the time I have spent away from friends and family hoping for a better life and future.

Finally coming back to the point of how much damage this move would do to Australia's international reputation. As the tale goes "a young village boy cries out loud for help claiming there is a lion that wants to eat him. The first time he does it the whole village turns up and there was no lion. The boy repeats this for the second time and the whole village turns up once again, but no lion. The boy cries out for help for the third time and this time there really is a lion, but the villagers no longer trust the boy and don't come for his rescue. The boy gets eaten". In short, the Australian immigration policies keep changing every now and then leaving no certainty for honest hard working internationals who meet every criterion that existed when they first came to Australia, only to be told that their visas could and will be capped as and when desired, and yet the Australian government keep claiming that there is a shortage of skilled workers. Yet when highly skilled people come and spend lots of money to study and just about when they are ready to apply for their permanent residency, the law changes and it is applied to all applications already waiting for a decision to be made. It is this practice that will lead to Australia being considered untrustworthy by the rest of the world. In the end this will then lead to a huge shortage of skilled workers leading to an economic crisis.

In Closing, I would say that I have considered Australia to be my home, and because I care for it, I wouldn't want to see such a day where by the rest of the world had no faith in Australia. Please do not pass this bill as it will do only damage to our nation's well being.

Yours Sincerely,