

23 June 2010

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dennett

Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010 [Provisions]

Universities Australia is the peak body representing Australia's universities in the public interest, both nationally and internationally. This submission is providing comment to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010. This is a Bill which 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 applicant applying for the visa.

Universities Australia does not support this Bill amendment and proposes a series of recommendations in the attached submission but importantly, suggests a need for further consultation to urgently occur. Along with the sequence of changes in immigration already undertaken and with many others in train, there is too much uncertainty over abrupt and arbitrary changes which threaten a major Australian achievement. More considered deliberation is needed especially in the context of the range of changes in train and under consideration.

Universities Australia would welcome the opportunity to contribute to further discussions and I can be contacted on telephone

Yours sincerely,

Dr Glenn Withers AO
Chief Executive Officer