Thu 3/06/2010 8:35 PM Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

I am really concerned about the bill you have proposed on immigration. I was born in Australia and proudly call Australia my home. My family migrated to Sydney more than 30 years ago from India. Being an Indian I am shocked about what is happening with all the international students who have migrated to Australia. They have left their families behind and sold basically everything they own to come to Australia and make this beautiful country their home. Many of these students have suffered greatly from working and studying 24 hours a day without getting any rest. They have to pay rent, the high fees that international students are required to pay etc. I do not believe that by getting this bill passed Australia will see to any more future migrants. It has always been a hard country to settle in compared to countries like Canada. Finally when overseas people were allowed into this country, not forgetting the contribution they made to significantly improving the Australian economy, they are being kicked out. I do not see any justice in this and being an Australian I am ashamed that we are doing this with our migrants. I have an easy life so I can stay out of all of this and not bother about anything that is happening with the migrants. However, I have family and friends who have applied for permanent residency and some are applying. Our whole community is hurt not just for Indians but for any migrant that will have to leave this country after waiting for so many years to get settled down here. I see people breaking down by every new law that negatively impacts these migrants. People are leaving before even hearing the decision, I know of many international students who are now moving to Canada because it is much easier to go there and make a home.

I request that this bill not be passed and at least those people who have already migrated here be given permanent residency in this wonderful country. We need more people to make this country more diverse and beautiful and it will not hurt to at least accept the applications of those already in Australia. I do not believe as an 18 year old Australian citizen that anyone who has paid to come to Australia to study or to make it their home should be sent back to their countries. If further offshore applications do want to be terminated by the government there is nothing wrong with that but please do not ruin the lives of those who have already made it here and are waiting eagerly for when their applications will be passed. It is a request from a young girl on behalf of many citizens in hope for the international students. Please do not let this bill be passed.

Regards, Jas Sunner