

Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010

To whom it may concern, Please let me introduce myself. My name is Melanie Williams I am a German citizen and Permanent Residence of Australia, living in Adelaide and Perth for the past 10 years. My husband and son are citizens and very proud Australians. I feel lucky and privileged to live in such a beautiful country like Australia amongst some of the friendliest people in the world. Therefore I am deeply shocked to hear that due to structural changes in the immigration system General Skilled Migration Visa applications will not only be changed in the future but also axed from people who have already applied and have been waiting patiently for a substantial period of time. This will not only affect my dear sister with partner but also thousands of people still waiting. Because I had to go through the visa process myself many years ago I know exactly what all those people have to go through to get permanent residency. This change is unfair in so many ways. In my opinion it eats at the core of Australian fairness for all those people who have sacrificed so much in making sure they meet Australia's requirements, lodged perfectly good applications, spent a huge amount of money for all the Visa requirements, medicals etc. and then had to wait patiently whilst their applications and lives have been put on hold.

My sister Simone Koenig and her partner Alexander Kurz have been living in Australia for 2.5 years now. They have seen more of Australia than many Australians. They love Australia the Australians and the Australian way of life. They have always done the right things requested from the Immigration, are socially integrated and hard, honest workers. Simone is qualified as a cook and has a Hospitality Diploma with outstanding marks. She has already 12 years of overall experience in Hotel Management, working in some of the world's finest hotels and restaurants in Germany and Switzerland. Working in the Hospitality Industry myself for the past 16 years I know that there is and has always been a staff shortage everywhere in the world-but especially in Australia. It is very hard here in Australia to find qualified people in the Hospitality Industry who are willing to work odd hours, overtime and except a poor salary, especially working as a cook.

With this visa change Simone won't be able to put all her qualifications and hard work into an Australian business and therefore will most likely have to return back to Germany.

This visa change will also affect me and my family as we would lose the only family support we have here in Australia (all my family and relatives live in Germany and will always remain there). Unfortunately Simone and Alexander won't have the opportunity to see their little nephew and godson grow up and this makes me very sad as I need their mental and physical support here so dearly.

Overall I think this change of visa will do great damage to the international reputation of Australia and I hope that the government will be looking into my submission and ask themselves if this change is fair to people who would like to contribute in a positive manner to this country. Kind Regards

Melanie Williams