

Respected Law Makers,

I am registering my strong disapproval and unease about the proposed “axing” of the existing GSM Visa applications.

To better understand my condition and many more people like me I would like to give you a brief background:

I came as a Post-graduate student to Sydney, leaving my well paid and stable job at a well known Indian-Multinational, along came with me my wife and we were quite happy to be here, we both hold Bachelors in Computer Science and Engineering, and thought further education and prior work-experience would facilitate our careers and personal life.

I never worked over 20 hours as a student, followed each and every rule, applied for my residency in August 2008, while my wife secured a permanent job, I continued to work as a contractor with a well known multinational company, and now I have a permanent job in IT, the field which I have nominated as my skilled occupation.

I have been patient for the past 2 years thinking it would be over (sooner or later), and we could start thinking about other things like: starting a family, buying property, etc, but unfortunately, all this is being held up by one pending application.

I think I was among the luckier applicants who could work in their nominated occupations, but imagine the plight of those who are struggling to get work, because professional jobs require you to have PR.

I would like to strongly suggest that any “axing” of applications which have been in the pipeline would severely affect the mental and economic status of the applicants, especially the on-shore ones. Worth mentioning is the fact that the applicants were qualified for the VISA at the time of application, so why they should be treated any different?

Applicants; especially residing with immediate family would be worst affected, as they would have invested in little yet expensive things that make up a house-hold.

Additionally, all policies and laws regarding immigration should be for future applications, not for those who should have already applied, especially in cases like mine where it's been almost 2 years since I applied, and that I have been in Australia for the last 4 years, learning and embracing the Australian way of life.

I would like to make following recommendations:

- 1) Not to make any retrospective changes, implying that there should be no axing for existing applicants, while I agree they may have to wait longer.
- 2) The proposed law should only target the new applications and applicants who are aware of the risks they carry while applying. Not for those who are settled in well

and just waiting for their applications to be accepted.

- 3) If you do go ahead with the proposal, the “axing” should and could not be objective, purely on basis of a queue number, but merit should be given to the contribution to economy and society.
- 4) Feel free to formulate new laws for more control over immigration but do not destroy lives, which have trusted the Australian governance with patience.
- 5) Expedite the processing of all onshore applications, because it will give them a chance to contribute more to the society, in addition to what they are already doing.

I really hope that no drastic decision is made in regards to people on Bridging Visas, because they would have by now invested a lot of time, money and effort in being a resident in Australia, while doing everything which was expected from them, by the laws in effect at the times.

Regards