

Dear **Senators**;

My name is _____, I am an IT professional living and working in Sydney. I have arrived in Australia in September 2013, and have been working ever since. I came with a 1.5 years' work visa, and then sponsored by my employer for 2 years (2015-2017), and then finally obtained my permanent residency in August 2017.

I have heard the new changes to be implemented on the current Australian Citizenship law. While I think, more emphasize in Australian Values is quite reasonable and I support those, I am, on the other hand, quite disappointed with the 4 years' permanent residency condition and the tougher language requirements.

As you know, the proposal was brought before the Senate last year in October, and was rejected, thanks for the efforts of the senators who saw the discriminatory side of it. However, the government is trying again, with some minor changes this time, but the mainframe of the old proposal still stays there...

The government is missing one point that, there is already a 4 year wait period before being eligible for Australian citizenship application. By adding additional 4 years "permanent residency" time to it, they only would make it tougher for people who already committed themselves to Australian lifestyle, values and culture.

Also, changing the existing language requirements to a "University level" is just discriminatory! Let me state that I have a valid IELTS result of 8 so I already fulfill this condition, however this is rather for everyone else, people who have been living in here for a while now, especially older people. This will only create a new class of people who would never be able to become an Australian citizen! Some researches showed that even native English speakers are failing the IELTS test components! In my opinion, the current English language requirements, very well addressing the point and adequately serving its purpose.

Lastly, granting the minister such an authority that he or she would be able to overrule a court's decision is just ridiculous! No one is above the rules! Politicians have certain political views and ideologies which they take their side on, while the courts and the judiciary system are independent, so how come a court's decision

can be ignored by a politician? That is not the way a democratic country would operate!

Let's work on an example which will show the contradictions in the new 4 year rule. Imagine someone, who applied and got PR approved offshore, and that person arrives in Australia, say today (8.3.2018), and let's assume the new law already passed the senate and the house of reps. You also have me, who arrived in Australia first on Temporary work visa in August 2013, worked from the first month until today and got his PR on 8.3.2018.

In these circumstances, the offshore PR person would be eligible for Australian citizenship in 8.3.2022, same date as me, but save that;

- I have been in Australia twice as long (8 years vs 4 years),
- I have been paying tax since 2013,
- I have been exposed to Australian cultures and values longer

So, would you please kindly explain, why the time done on a temporary work visa is completely ruled out? What is the justification of that? Don't we still live on this land even if we are on a temporary work visa? Why on earth, our valuable time spent on this soil wouldn't be count just because a difference in visa subclass?

Therefore, I would kindly request you to consider my points while making your decision during the voting process. Please note that, this unexpected, ridiculous and absurd proposal has already affected thousands of people who are willing to become an Australian citizen and pledge their allegiance to this beautiful land. This bill, if it passes, will only create upset –would be citizens. What Australia taught me during my time here is the multiculturalism, tolerance and diversity. This land is a soil of helpful, welcoming and beautiful people, which compounds the values and traditions of Australia, this bill will absolutely destroy this spirit!

Dear **senator**, I am sure you also have someone in your family who was born in overseas, or at least one of their parents are! I am hundred percent sure, this bill will affect many Australian families and will only harm them and break their hearts.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.