

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) 2010 Bill

As a current applicant for the General Skilled Migration 885 Visa I would like to submit this document as a request to not have all existing applications for this visa and other existing applications axed under the new legislation this June.

Needless to say the thought of having my application and those of numerous others, axed in less than a month, is very distressing, especially when I think of all that this would mean for my immediate future as well as all the time, effort, and work that I put into submitting the application in the first instance. The many changes that have been happening with regards to Australian immigration issues have not gone unnoticed by anyone in Australia and least of all, those people, like myself, who are quite simply trying to make a life for themselves in this country but ceaselessly come up against many obstacles, for example when looking for jobs whilst on a bridging visa with no set date for the visa to be granted.

The expense that went into making the application was not a small one and would be wasted if my application was axed, especially when you consider the fact that the validity of some requirements to make an application such as the IELTS test and Medical test have time limitations that render them useless after two years and 1 year respectively which means you have to keep getting tested so you have current results in order to make an application for your required visa. There is also the added cost of degree assessment when applying for a Skilled-migration visa, such as the one I currently have under application.

Also, the fact that an application for the GSM 885 Visa can only be lodged within 6 months of finishing your studies, also means that if my application, and those of others who are seeking skilled migration visas, were to be axed next month, I would be ineligible to apply for this visa. Without the finances to apply for another visa and without the ability to apply for any other visa subclass because I don't meet the specific requirements for that visa, this legislation change would make it impossible to apply and therefore stay in Australia. This basically seems like a big shove in the back from the Immigration department of the Australian government to myself and others in my situation, and it seems that all this legislation is trying to say is "Get out of Australia". While I understand, the need for the country to want to improve itself and develop its skilled workforce and provide better employment opportunities for the people in this country, I don't think it is at all fair to disqualify hard-working, tax-paying, individuals from also enjoying living and making a home in Australia. This holds true for all applicants for these visas that are facing the 'axing' in June who came to this country and made their visa applications in good faith that their applications would be treated fairly and be assessed fairly by the immigration department, without discrimination for type of application or when applications were made. It seems that every few months the Department of Immigration creates another hurdle to make migrating to Australia harder than in previous months and in years gone by.

It would seem more reasonable to make new rules that apply to future visa applications so that when people make these applications they are fully aware of the circumstances surrounding their applications and can make an informed decision about whether or not they want to make the costly investment of making a visa application or they can prepare

to depart the country in an agreeable and unforced way. I think it is underhanded of the government to even consider terminating visa applications that are currently being or are awaiting processing and does not say a lot for the integrity of the Department of Immigration. For a country that claims to be accepting of other cultures and nationalities this move does not seem to resonate in this proposed migration policy that adversely affects so many foreign nationals.

I implore you to reconsider this proposed change in legislation and not to penalise people who have already made applications for their respective visas. If you would for only a few moments consider not only the monetary cost but also the great mental and emotional effort that goes into applying for a visa and then waiting for an undefined amount of time for the outcome of that application to be realised. This effort is not only experienced by the individual making the application but also by family and friends who have supported the individual in either getting to Australia and sponsoring the individual to get through their tertiary studies. I urge all those who hold not only my future, but that of many thousands of other applicants, literally in the palm of their hands to not terminate any already-submitted visa applications and to carefully consider all the adverse effects that this change in legislation would have on the individuals who have made their applications and who are hoping to call Australia home.

Yours sincerely,