

Sir/Madam

The new Citizenship Bill is warmly welcomed and puts Australia on par with the rest of the First World.

However, I do think provision needs to be made for people that arrived in Australia as Permanent Residents (PR) before the Bill is made Law.

In summary, we became PR in November 2005 and intended to become citizens November 2007. Under the new Law, this will now become November 2008.

Our timing for coming to Australia included consideration of University for my daughter.

She would be due to start Uni in Feb. 2008.

We anticipated that she could avail of the HECS assistance as a citizen.

However, now it appears that she will not be a citizen and not be able to get financial assistance and we cannot afford to pay for the University course up front as required. Ironically, having lived outside of the UK now, we cannot go back to the UK and do this either. In essence, this Bill has wrecked my daughters University plan.

I believe that people who are PRs before the new Bill comes into place should still only have to reside here for 2 years as was the Law when they became PRs.

Regards

Andrew Shine
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QLD