



IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday 19 July 2010

## **VISA CAPPING BILL: DISRESPECTFUL TO MIGRANTS, BAD FOR AUSTRALIA**

While politicians are simply focussed on refugees in boats, the true migration issues that need to be dealt with are about skills shortages and Australia's reputation.

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) urges all Federal Parliamentarians to reconsider their position on the *Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010* currently before a Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry.

The MIA is the peak body for migration advice professionals, many of whom have reported grave misgivings about this Bill, as well as the related Cap and Cease powers exercised by the Minister for Immigration from 8 February 2010 to date.

"To invite people to apply to come to Australia, lodge their applications and pay their money and then to leave them stranded by an edict of a Minister is shameful and disrespectful," said Maurene Horder, Chief Executive Officer of the MIA.

"This Bill affords little if any certainty to potential migrants, destroying their legitimate plans for the future and putting their lives on hold for years."

The *Migration Amendment (Visa Capping) Bill 2010* and the succession of drastic and often retrospective changes that feature in the Government's migration program damage Australia's reputation abroad and make Australia an unattractive location for workers, students, families and migrants.

Along with the MIA, more than 650 organisations and individuals made submissions to the inquiry, including many heartrending stories of personal hardship and uncertainty from migrants and potential migrants who justifiably feel misled by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

"Capping and Ceasing should be used only as a last resort after potential migrants have been offered alternative arrangements and all other options have been considered," Horder said. "No Minister should wield such unfettered, arbitrary power as the *Visa Capping* bill affords.

"A public inquiry should be held into the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program as it is becoming dysfunctional, ineffectual and cumbersome, and may lead to another major skills shortage," she continued. "The real issues facing Australian migration concern the skills and people we need for growth and prosperity."

### **Available for Interview**

Maurene Horder  
Chief Executive Officer  
Migration Institute of Australia  
[www.mia.org.au](http://www.mia.org.au)

### **Contact**

Brian Duff  
Communications Manager  
0432 937 862  
[brian.duff@mia.org.au](mailto:brian.duff@mia.org.au)

### **Migration Institute of Australia**

ABN 83 003 409 390  
Level 3, 83 York St, Sydney NSW 2000  
Ph: +612 9279 3140 Fax: +612 9279 3172  
[info@mia.org.au](mailto:info@mia.org.au) [www.mia.org.au](http://www.mia.org.au)