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To Whom It May Concern:

Temporary visa and overseas student fees

I write with regards to, what I perceive to be, a loophole within the educational system. I am a "Temporary Permanent Resident" wishing to further my studies with a masters degree. I am contesting the fact that when one is on a temporary visa (subclass 309, or 457), they are considered an international student.

To provide minor background to the visas in question, there are two visa applications that are submitted concurrently. These are for the temporary visa and for the permanent resident visa. As stated, these two applications are lodged together.

I am being classified as an international student despite my being required to pay regular taxes, my employer being required to pay superannuation, and my having to obtain a drivers license as I could not rely on an international one for an extended period of time. All the above indicate that I am being regarded as a permanent resident or citizen, barring my status in the education sector.

Further to this, according to the *Education Services to Overseas Students Act (ESOS)*, I am not covered by this act unless I am on a specific "Student Visa". This further strengthens my argument that I cannot and should not be considered a conventional international student on an international student visa.

In a letter I once received on behalf of the HON Julie Bishop, the following was stated, "A spouse temporary visa allows a holder to study in Australia...". I would now like to study, but feel that I am being dealt an unfair card as I am required to pay international fees, especially considering the merit that I am attempting to make a life for myself in Australia.

I am making a motion for a slight change/addition to policy regarding international students and temporary visas and their implications on student fees.

The motion is as follows;

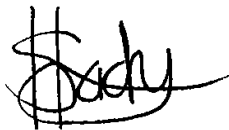
“I feel that a fair system would be for individuals on a temporary permanent visa be allowed to study at domestic student rates. Should this not be possible, then the next option is for the individual to pay international fees, with the option of getting the difference between the international student rate and the domestic student rate back once a permanent visa has been granted.”

This would be in tune with the way that superannuation works; Every month a portion of my salary is contributed to superannuation. Should my permanent residency not be granted, I may take the contributed portion out of the country, along with the taxes that I have paid over my stay in the country (within certain regulations beyond the scope of this letter). In the case of studying, should the visa not be granted, my educational status will remain as an international student, however, should it be granted, I will be entitled to a refund on the excess portion of fees that I would have paid.

A system such as this would, in my opinion, strengthen, or rather, be strengthened by the current policy regarding taxes and superannuation, and therefore would be in the interests of all parties concerned.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard Sachs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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