

Submission to the Review of the Significant Cost Threshold

The last resort

I've been calling Australia home for the last almost 10 years. However, I'm still not welcomed in Australia due to my health condition.

I arrived in Australia on a student visa. A few years later through my PhD, I was diagnosed with HIV. My world fell apart. No support and no medicare. Medication was not provided by the Australian government at the time, everything was based on your visa status. So I was getting my medication supplied by the Brazilian Government - they were sending me via post every three months.

I'm still unable to apply for PR, even though I have a PhD in engineering from an Australian university, many years of experience, a job, high income, and am fit and healthy. I am 34 years old and could easily apply for the 189 or 190 skilled visa.

My medical health condition is 100per cent manageable. My HIV viral load is undetectable which means I cannot pass HIV to anyone and can live a normal life.

Stigma is the most horrendous thing anyone can ever experience, and has impacted my life in so many ways. This fear prevents a number of international students and people on a visa from getting tested every year, because they know they won't be able to stay in Australia if they are HIV positive. All reports from the Health Equity Matters and HIV researchers back this statement. It's a fact.

I've definitely given more to Australia than taken out. I've done everything I can to be accepted here, so this is my last resort. I supplicate the Australian Government to change the rules, by increasing the significant cost threshold, or give us the opportunity for a health waiver (visa 189 and 190 are not eligible). Help me to call Australia home.

Ableism and stigma should not be welcomed in Australia anymore. This needs to change.

Please feel free to publish this Submission but I wish to remain anonymous.

12 Nov 2023