

## Health Requirement Review

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 November 2023 2:49 PM  
**To:** Health Requirement Review  
**Subject:** Submission into "Significant Cost Threshold"

**Categories:** Registered

Good morning,

We thank you for this opportunity to make submission into this very important topic.

Our names are [REDACTED] and we live in [REDACTED].

We would like to share the story of a very dear friend of ours and her experience with the Australian Governments Visa system. We hope it may influence reforms into the "Significant Cost Threshold" and the plight of visa holders who become ill while in Australia.

Our friend was born in Zambia 60 years ago. She recently celebrated her 60th birthday in [REDACTED] with a great many of her friends and nursing colleagues. Her name is [REDACTED] and this is her story.

[REDACTED] arrived in Australia in 2008 as a full fee paying student at Canberra University for 3 years to gain her degrees in General Nursing and Midwifery to Australian standards before entering the workforce as a nurse. In Zambia, [REDACTED] was a nun with extensive nursing experience equivalent to a Nurse Practitioner in Australia. [REDACTED] enjoyed the Australian way of life so much, as many migrants do, she sought permanent residency here. She wanted to call Australia her new home as she had made many close friendships in Australia. A migration agent she employed to assist her gain her residency gave [REDACTED] wrong information. [REDACTED] was not made aware an age limit applied to securing her residency which had been reached and a working visa was granted only and not a permanent residency as she had hoped.

We have known [REDACTED] since July 2017. [REDACTED] was a midwife at [REDACTED] Hospital who was caring for our daughter in-law, pre and post delivery for a complicated pregnancy. While in hospital for over 3 weeks our D.I.L. and [REDACTED] developed a friendship which continued after mother and baby were discharged home. It was at this time we met [REDACTED] when we were in [REDACTED] to to see our new granddaughter. She regularly visited the family at home making sure there were no complications and checking that all was well, which was [REDACTED] nature as a kind, caring person interested in other peoples welfare. Some time later [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] and then finally to [REDACTED] in 2020, where we lived and we resumed our friendship again.

Since arriving in [REDACTED] in 2020, we keep in touch regularly and have become very fond of her. [REDACTED] takes a genuine interest in us and our family of 3 children and 4 grand children. She always asks about the family and how they are progressing. We consider ourselves fortunate to have someone who takes such a personal interest in our lives as [REDACTED] does.

Not long after her arrival in [REDACTED], [REDACTED] suddenly became ill with ovarian cancer. Her illness is one that affects many women through no fault of their own. It just happens randomly and [REDACTED] is another statistic of this dreadful disease. It is not a disease that was brought in from Zambia, it developed while she was working in Australia. All through her illness and chemotherapy treatment [REDACTED] has always remained positive trying alternative therapies in the hope of a cure. Her cheerful

attitude in the face of an unknown outcome is an inspiration to us.

After 12 years of employment as a nurse in Australia, [REDACTED] is still contributing to Australian society working as a registered nurse and midwife at [REDACTED] Hospital, Western Australia today even with the debilitating disease that ravages her body. She has never had a day off sick until her illness. She has paid for all her hospital, medical and pharmaceutical expenses for her illness from her own savings, has her own private health insurance, and has never been a drain on the Australian taxpayer at any time.

The cost of her chemotherapy treatment is expensive with all costs borne from [REDACTED] savings and no guarantee of a cure. [REDACTED] has a working visa that expires in 2026. Her wish is to return to Zambia to die if her illness eventually consumes her and she can no longer work to afford her treatment or her visa expires. We and all her friends are saddened by her decision as we value her greatly and would dearly miss her. Our hope is the responsible authorities will intervene and allow her to stay in Australia with Permanent Residency status and receive the medical care she needs for this insidious disease without further cost and stress to herself.

The "Significant Cost Threshold" is a barrier in the way of temporary visa holders afflicted by illness or disease such as [REDACTED]. We need significant and urgent reform to make the system fairer for everyone.

Some things we'd like to see come from this review are:

- Health waivers made available for all applicants for all visa subclasses, and made automatic for all children born in Australia to parents who hold a temporary residence visa.
- The Significant Cost Threshold doubled, to bring it into line with comparable international jurisdictions like Canada and New Zealand or removed altogether for existing visa holders.
- Special education be removed from community cost calculations, and from Medical Officer of the Commonwealth costings.
- That the 'one fails all fail' rule regarding family units be revoked.

[REDACTED] has given service to Australia for the last 12 years, it is time for Australia to repay her back in her time of need. It is what Australians are known for.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9th November 2023