

Health Requirement Review

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 November 2023 7:46 PM
To: Health Requirement Review
Subject: Submission: Review of Australia's visa Significant Cost Threshold (SCT)

Categories: Registered

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this email as my submission to the Government's Review of Australia's visa Significant Cost Threshold (SCT).

The department is currently investigating the policy regarding the Migration Health Requirement as set out in the Discussion Paper on Home Affairs' website, which aims to 'contain public expenditure on health care and community services'.

I do not currently believe that the policy is fit for purpose and it does not meet my expectation for Australia's migration policies.

The following improvements would benefit not only Australia, but the prospective migrants that are currently discriminated against due to their health status.

1. The Significant Cost Threshold should be removed. My reasoning for this is that:

a) any prospective migrant that is able to secure a skilled stream visa will likely be highly educated or with skills Australia need. Therefore, it is highly likely that they are working individuals that contribute with income tax. The potential costs their medical status may incur, does not seem to affect their productivity since they have been successful in meeting the stringent criteria of a skilled visa. Furthermore, these individuals are likely to contribute through intangible aspects such as volunteering as well which has been linked to increased social cohesion.

b) any prospective migrant that is pursuing a family stream visa will likely in the end be granted a health waiver due to compassionate reasons. The unnecessary step of being subject to the health waiver process adds years of unnecessary stress and uncertainty to individuals that most likely will be granted the visa in the end.

2. If the Significant Cost Threshold cannot be removed, I argue that the ceiling should be increased to \$AU 250,000 over 10 years. This would bring Australia's threshold in line with Canada (CA\$ 120,285 over 5 years / AU\$ 135,681/5 years or AU\$271,362/10 years). Canada has a comparable economy to Australia and should be able to support the same level of healthcare support. It is also noted that a country with such small economy as New Zealand have set a higher threshold than Australia (NZ\$ 81,000 over 5 years / AU\$ 74844 / 5 years or AU\$ 149688 / 10 years).

3. Extend the Health Waiver to include all visa streams and visa classes. There may be exceptional prospective migrants that get caught in the Significant Cost Threshold and that are automatically denied a visa due to there being no Health waiver available to them in their visa stream. By extending the possibility of the health waiver it is possible for Australia to capture and retain these individuals.

Thank you for reviewing the Significant Cost Threshold of the Migration Health Requirement and accepting this submission.

Kind regards,

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