

s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(a)

20 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this to **oppose the proposed changes to the Immigration policy**, specifically in regards to the proposal to **align Essential Skills with the SMC remuneration thresholds**

I believe that it is especially difficult for an international student that has graduated with a diploma or degree from New Zealand to immediately find work that meets the remuneration thresholds that align with SMC requirements. I do think it a bit unfair to expect fresh graduates from NZ to be able to match the proposed remuneration threshold, especially in areas of skill shortage. International students will have difficulty finding a job that matches the proposed annual rates of pay.

Most employers in New Zealand value a combination of New Zealand work experience and education as it should be, but in this scenario, it becomes difficult for a student with zero to little New Zealand work experience to attain a job that matches the proposed annual rates of pay.

I do understand that students are given a graduate work experience visa for a year or two but the problem with this visa is that it is linked to a specific employer, which then makes it difficult for a person to change jobs as a potential employer may be discouraged by the fact that the individual's visa conditions do not allow him/her to undertake work with another employer other than the one mentioned on the visa. Although the individual can apply for a variation of visa conditions, many employers are skeptical about this as they assume it may get them into trouble with the government.

Personally, I work in the field of ICT where I started off as a fresh graduate (International student) from NZ on an annual salary of \$37,000 and then gradually after a year moved to another role that offered \$40,000. I am confident that given another few years' experience, I will be able to demand a higher rate of annual pay. But expecting students to earn the proposed \$48,859 or \$73,299 fresh after graduation is almost an impossible demand.

Furthermore, I believe that the quality of migrants should be improved by implementing better English standards and ensuring that only students that excel in their respective courses be given a pathway to residence.

Sincerely

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