



Postgraduate  
Council UNSW

The Hon. Clare O'Neil, MP  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Cyber Security

The Hon. Andrew Giles, MP  
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

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## **An Open Letter to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs**

Dear Ministers,

We hope this letter finds you well and would like to thank you for taking valuable time to read it. We, the Postgraduate Council at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), are writing this letter regarding the recently proposed changes to the Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa (TGV) as outlined in the Migration Strategy. While we agree with many of the reforms being introduced, we wish to highlight the concerns voiced by international students at our university, specifically regarding the decision to reduce the age eligibility.

### **We believe that age should not be a hindrance in the pursuit of knowledge and employment.**

Reducing the age eligibility from 50 to 35 severely limits opportunities for many of our current and deserving international students. The newly proposed age cap undermines the academic and career aspirations from students who have dedicated years to qualify and prepare for a full-time Australian education at the postgraduate level. This reform would disproportionately impact Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students, many of whom are in their 30s and would otherwise be able to greatly contribute to Australia's academic and professional communities upon graduating.

We firmly advocate for a selection process that prioritises an individual's capabilities and the potential value they bring to Australia, and, as such, believe age should not be the ultimate determining factor in granting a visa. Australia has always been a beacon of advanced education and cultural diversity, attracting students from all over the world. It is crucial that we continue to foster this reputation by supporting policies that are inclusive, fair, and beneficial to both the international student community and broader Australia.

We respectfully implore you to reconsider reducing the TGV age eligibility from 50 to 35. Retaining the age limit at 50 will accommodate the diverse needs and aspirations of international postgraduate students while safeguarding Australia's reputation for academic and research excellence.

We are hopeful that you will consider our concerns and we look forward to your response. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tony Le', written in a cursive style.

**Tony Le**  
President  
UNSW Postgraduate Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sidra Sarwat', written in a cursive style.

**Sidra Sarwat**  
General Secretary  
UNSW Postgraduate Council