

From: [Victoria Lenton](#) >

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To: secretary@progressiveatheists.org >

FW: Petition: Stop Witch Hunting and Homophobic Evangelical Tour of Australia.

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

13 November 2013 2:30 am

Inbox - 

Dear Inga Anthonipillai

I refer to your email of 8 November 2013 concerning the visit to Australia of Pastor Enoch Adeboye of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Although I am not able to discuss the details of Pastor Adeboye's visa application due to the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*, I am able to provide general information regarding the character requirements in section 501 of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act).

Section 501 of the Act prescribes that a visa applicant does not pass the character test where his or her presence in Australia would represent a significant risk of vilifying, inciting discord in, or otherwise representing a danger to the Australian community.

When a potential concern is identified, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection balances this risk against Australia's well-established tradition of freedom of expression. The 'significant risk' grounds are only enlivened if there is evidence suggesting that there is more than a minimal or trivial likelihood that the person, if allowed to enter or to remain in Australia, would engage in the conduct specified.

The 'significant risk' grounds prescribed in the character section of the Act are not intended to provide a charter for denying entry or continued stay to persons merely because they hold and are likely to express unpopular opinions, even where these opinions may attract strong expressions of disagreement and condemnation from some elements of the Australian community.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Lenton
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