The Migration Legislation Amendment (Contributory Parents Migration Scheme) Bill 2002 and Migration (Visa Application) Charge Amendment Bill 2002 create new contributory parent visa classes and subclasses with substantially increased financial obligations in relation to health charges and social security payments.

The number of immigrant parent places would be increased from 500 to 4,500, of which 3,500 would be in the new contributory subclasses. The legislation aims to address rising costs associated with population ageing, and the equitable distribution of those costs between parents, who have served their working lives overseas and not contributed to the welfare of Australia, and Australian taxpayers. The Opposition moved an amendment to the effect that the current backlog of 22,400 parent applications was created by the Government's severe capping of the program, argued that the economic discrimination of the proposed legislation was inequitable, and called for a fair system of parent visas.