

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 63)

International Student School May Be Deregistered



Today's Breaking News 9th January 2007

Sydney Morning Herald Reports SICB may be Deregistered

Following our weekend edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS concerning SICB, today the Sydney Morning Herald printed a story concerning the troubled school. The following has been reproduced from the SMH web page link; www.smh.com.au/news/national/college-seeks-fees-for-suspended-courses/2008/01/08/1199554655607.html

College seeks fees for suspended courses

Harriet Alexander Higher Education Reporter
January 9, 2008

A PRIVATE college being investigated under the Immigration Act is demanding students continue to pay fees of up to \$5000.

The Sydney International College of Business's courses in commercial cookery, hairdressing and hospitality have been suspended by the NSW Education Department and it is forbidden from accepting payment from current students until its accreditation is restored.

The NSW Vocational Education and Training Registration Board is considering whether to deregister the college.

The college's troubles threaten to leave hundreds of international students in breach of their visa conditions and thousands of dollars out of pocket.

One student, from India, said the college was refusing to refund up to \$2000 he'd paid in October for a course that had not yet started and which he no longer wished to do in case the college's registration was cancelled.

The Federal Government requires that colleges join a tuition assurance scheme,

linking them with organisations that will accept their students if they collapse.

But the boom in demand for cookery courses meant there would be too many students to place if the college went bust, Dianne Potter, the senior executive officer of the Australian Council of Independent Vocational Colleges, said.

"Should this college close, it will be a whole-of-government approach to try and work out what can be done with the students," Ms Potter said.

The registration board had suspended the courses because they were over-enrolled and the college kitchen did not comply with standards, including for ventilation, but it had been working to correct those problems when the board intervened, Ms Potter said.

The college did not return the *Herald's* calls yesterday.

Another student, Claudia, said she was turned away from 10 colleges before she found a place in TAFE. "Everybody's scared. I think everybody's trying to get out of the college but there's no place to go."

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is investigating the college, which is alleged to have sold certificates to students who did not attend the required number of classes.

Australian Federal Police raided the college last year.

(End story)

Subscription to IMMIGRATION NEWS?

If you haven't subscribed yet to IMMIGRATION NEWS but would like to join the other 5000+ recipients, send us an e-mail, subscribe@australiavisa.com

Wish them to stop then, unsubscribe@australiavisa.com

Kind regards

Karl Konrad
Managing Director
Australian Immigration Law Services
Publishers of IMMIGRATION NEWS
MARN: 9904238

Australian Immigration Law Services
Level 1, 30 Carrington Street
Sydney NSW 2000
t: 61 2 9279 1991 | f: 61 2 9279 1994
e: sydney@australiavisa.com | w: www.australiavisa.com

Disclaimer and Copyright

IMMIGRATION NEWS is intended to provide general information on migration issues and does not constitute legal advice and no responsibility is accepted by Australian Immigration Law Services (AILS) for the accuracy of material appearing in IMMIGRATION NEWS.

People seeking advice on migration law should seek advice from a registered migration agent.

The copyright of IMMIGRATION NEWS belongs to Australian Immigration Law Services (AILS) and no part of IMMIGRATION NEWS is to be reproduced by any means without the written consent of AILS.

09012008KK