

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 69)

Time To Demonstrate Some Leadership



4th February 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the new subscribers of IMMIGRATION NEWS. This service is brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services.

Please feel free to e-mail this newsletter to any of your friends.

Editorial: Time to Demonstrate Some Leadership

Is Senator Chris Evans the current Minister of DIAC another lame duck as his liberal party predecessor Kevin Andrews? Now normally we couldn't care two hoots (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/doesn't+care+two+hoots>) about who is the Immigration Minister but when there seems to be distinct void in leadership and people are suffering as a result, then we care a great deal.

1) Students who have their applications frozen

Thousands of skilled migration applicants are currently waiting on bridging visa's after having their applications frozen by the Immigration Minister Senator Evans. This has occurred as a result of applicants being unable to deposit the \$100,000 deposit in order to obtain the 5 points they need to reach the pass mark.

These applicants are going through terrible anguish for they still do not know if their visas will be granted or are they forced to return home. This situation has now been going on for some months and Senator Evans has done nothing to allay applicant's fears. The only statement issued by DIAC is by individual case officers stating;

“ An updated notice will be placed on the “What's new” section of the Skilled page on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website when further general information is available”.

Of course when you check this web site there is nothing new.

Accordingly we have a suggestion for the Minister to issue a press release that should go something like this;

Dear Students

DIAC is aware that many of you who wish to deposit the \$100,000 in order to reach the pass mark are nervous about your future. Please be assured however no student will have their application rejected due to this issue alone.

We would like to give surety to all students studying in Australia that when you lodge an application based on the rules we have at the time you apply you can depend upon the integrity of our program. We will ensure that if changes do occur they will not affect applicants after they apply other wise this would undermine the very essence of the Australian spirit of giving people "a fair go".

This deposit issue is complicated but we have the power to gazette another institution to accept your money and when this is arranged we will notify you all in the near future.

We appreciate your patience in this matter and apologise that this situation has caused you concern.

Now of course this statement has not occurred and is our suggestion only.

Students must have confidence in our migration programs but in the last 12 months we have seen that belief significantly eroded. Firstly it has been the new 2 Year Study Rule by changing the law even before the policy is finalised and then when the policy does come out the Skilled Migration Section changes it as they go along.

Now we have thousands of students in limbo due to a missing 5 points.

Please Senator Evans let us see some leadership.

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Coming up next? 1) Navigating the State Sponsorship maze for permanent residency (886 visa) and temporary residency (487 visa).
2) What to do with an Offshore Spouse? Bringing your spouse to Australia on the 485 visa.
3) Education Agents and Global College blame each other for the Cooking Course enrolment fiasco. Who's telling the truth and what's VETAB been doing about it?

Stay tuned.

Kind regards

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