

NEW TRA CHANGES

Over the last few months there has been mass confusion regarding assessment procedures of Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) and the implementation of their new 900 hours of work experience requirement for recent graduates of AQF Certificate III trade courses. These courses have for many years been a quick way for international students in Australia to complete and obtain a 60 point skill in order to apply for permanent residence (PR).

For more information regarding the 900 hours of work experience requirement please refer to our newsletters Volumes 16 & 19 on our web site at www.australiavisa.com.

In the last week the TRA has also announced that from July 1st 2005 that when trying to use AQF Certificate III courses to obtain a positive skill assessment, the course in question must also be CRICOS registered. This will be a major blow to students currently enrolled in non-CRICOS registered courses at the same time as their current CRICOS course.

When applying for a student visa in Australia the course must be CRICOS registered. For a number of years hundreds of students who were enrolled in for example a Business College Diploma, could also at the same time complete another Certificate III trade course (usually non-CRICOS registered) and then use this course to gain 60 points for their PR. This new information means that if the course you are studying is not eligible to use for a student visa application then you will not be able to gain a positive skill assessment from the TRA.

This new rule from the TRA is about to suddenly stop this common practice and will be upsetting for students who have paid the usual \$10,000-plus fees.

Karl Konrad
Managing Director
Australian Immigration Law Services
July 2005