

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 102)

Today's News Story

"Hairdressing cut may leave colleges stranded"



Today's Newspaper Story Concerning International Students

11th December 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. Today's article comes from Melbourne's THE AGE.

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

Editorial Comment

Today's story indicates there may be a change in the MODL where Hairdressing and Cooks may be removed. This has not been announced by DIAC so it is not certain until it happens.

Firstly, there is **no need to panic** regarding this issue for I would estimate 90% of cooking and hairdressing students who study in Australia do not need the extra MODL points anyway. Remember you can only gain the MODL points if you have 12 months work experience **after** you have qualified in your occupation. They are not talking out removing Cooks and Hairdressers from the Skilled Occupation List, just from the MODL!

Secondly, if you gain work experience in Australia and are able to be granted the extra 10 points for your employment here, then the MODL points are usually not necessary anyway.

There will be a number of students who are over 30 who may have been counting on the MODL after work experience in Australia but they will find they will have other visa options open to them such as the State Sponsored 886 or 487 visa's.

Overall students do not need to be concerned over this issue. Remember Accountants and IT Professionals have both come off the MODL before and then later they came back on. It would not surprise me if the same happens to Cooks and Hairdressers.

Hairdressing cut may leave colleges stranded

- Sushi Das, *The Age*
- December 11, 2008

HAIRDRESSING and cookery are expected to be removed from the list of occupational skills in short supply in Australia — a move that would affect migration rules and have widespread ramifications for the international education industry.

Thousands of international students who complete courses in hairdressing and cookery can gain extra migration points towards applications for permanent residency because the two trades are currently included on the Migration Occupations in Demand List.

It is widely acknowledged in the international education industry that hairdressing and cookery are popular courses among international students because the extra migration points allow a "fast track" to permanent residency in Australia.

But the impact on training colleges nationwide is expected to be far-reaching, with possible job losses and business failures.

The removal of cookery and hairdressing could result in a significant drop in students seeking to enrol in such courses, leaving TAFE and private training colleges struggling to fill classes.

Colleges that offer hairdressing and cookery courses and only have international students on their books, are likely to be hardest hit as student numbers drop off.

Private training colleges, particularly in Victoria, have boomed in recent years on the back of demand for hairdressing and cookery courses from international students.

For the year to July, national training sector enrolments jumped 44% on the previous year, reflecting the popularity of private training colleges as lucrative businesses thriving on fees from international students.

In Victoria, colleges registered to teach international students cookery and hairdressing far outnumber any other state or territory.

These colleges offer 134 courses in hairdressing and 109 courses in cookery.

Research by Monash University demographer Bob Birrell last year found international student enrolments in cooking and hairdressing nearly tripled between 2004 and 2006.

In response to questions by *The Age*, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Evans, said: "As has long been the case, the skilled migration program is monitored in light of the economic circumstances at the time. The Government has also been consulting business and industry about their future skills needs," he said.

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training, which represents private training colleges, called on the Government to install appropriate transitional arrangements for students and colleges.

"We've got the risk of job losses and business failure in already difficult times," said council spokesman Andrew Smith.

International education is a \$13.9 billion industry in Australia.

End story>

Link: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/hairdressing-cut-may-leave-colleges-stranded-20081210-6vwk.html>

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

www.australiavisa.com

Australian Immigration Law Services
Level 13, 37 York Street
Sydney NSW 2000
t: 61 2 9279 1991 | f: 61 2 9279 1994
e: sydney@australiavisa.com | w: www.australiavisa.com