

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 130)

Skilled Migration Shake Up!



13th May 2009

Dear Students

Welcome to the new subscribers of IMMIGRATION NEWS which is published by Australian Immigration Law Services.

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

Skilled Migration Shake Up

Last night's budget has sent some warning signs that some major changes are on their way concerning the onshore skilled migration program that will directly impact upon international students in Australia.

A shortened version of these changes was provided by the MIA and is reproduced below. Reducing the overall intake numbers for skilled migration was expected and this will mean a considerable waiting period for skilled migration onshore applicants who are not on the Critical Skills List (CSL).

The major concern is the flagged increase in IELTS requirements for trade occupations from the current 5.0 on each to 6.0. DIAC does not mention that it will be 6.0 on each section of the IELTS test but the way it is written one can assume that it will be.

Students can expect this new IELTS requirement from the 1st of January 2010, which is not so far away considering it is difficult to book an IELTS test in Sydney until September. This will affect all onshore applications (485,885,886 etc). Offshore applications will be affected from the 1st July 2009. **We don't see this move as a legitimate concern over trade applicants English abilities, rather it is a backdoor approach to try and limit the number of cooks and hairdressers applying for residency.**

Also announced is a job readiness test for onshore applicants. We are assuming

this will be aimed at trade occupations rather than the professional groups like Engineers, Accountants etc. I can just imagine this is going to be another costly exercise for international students and I cannot see the relevance if applicants are already demonstrating paid employment in their nominated occupations.

Trade Recognition Australia used to run trade tests on a random basis years ago. It cost them a great deal to administer and it proved difficult to organise. If there is going to be a return to such a system I hope they will be better prepared than last time otherwise it will be a disaster.

Highlights of 2009 Federal Budget on the Migration Program

- The Migration Program will total 168,700 places for 2009-10.
- The Federal Government's 2009 Budget has made a further cut to the permanent skilled migration intake to 108,000 places for the 2009-10 program (a 20% reduction to the previous budget)
- The reduction on will be achieved largely through cutbacks in the General Skilled Category
- A job-readiness test will be introduced for onshore skilled applicants
- The Government will be increasing the English language requirement for trades occupation to IELTS 6 from 1 July 2009 for offshore applicants and 1 January 2010 for onshore applicants
- There will be fewer visas granted to trade level occupations
- There will be an increase in family migration places to 60,300, including addition 2500 for partners, 1000 for contributory parents and 300 for child visas
- Increased humanitarian Program to 13,750 (7750 Special Humanitarian and 6000 refugee)
- Increased funding to improve detention centres
- DIAC staff reductions
- Increased costs for DIAC to establish the new Office of the MARA

Full details of the Government's Budget statements can be found at:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/about/reports/budget/budget09/budget09pbs.htm>

Readers Comments

Hello sir

My name is Shweta Patel. Every time I got your mail and I read it and we can get all information regarding the Immigration rules. Sir I finish my study in Carrick Institution and I applied for residency 27 of august 2007 and my course is Diploma of Hairdressing. I read all your email that we can get the news the high court gave decision to the student side but still they are not issuing our visa. Now can we have patience but still immigration people said that have a patience but sir how can we ? Because all other people get visa with in 6 month. But only we people have to suffer and its not 1 year it's more than 1 year 8 month. Now you can understand our mental condition because we people getting in Depressed because of only and only our residency. I hope that if you could do something for us. I can trust your email and I have expectation to you that you can d something for us so we can be feel relax.

Thank you for your guidance

Shweta patel

Our Reply

Dear Sweta

Yes the High Court did rule in favour of the Carrick Institute of Education in an unfair decision that should never had been made by DIAC. Regrettably that injustice has caused you to suffer. However now that the suspension on processing has been in effect since December 2008 for applicants not on the CSL (see Volume 120 of IMMIGRATION NEWS) this has increased your delay in processing worse.

I wish we could wave a magic wand and fix this problem for you. Despite our efforts and the best intentions of Carrick and many other people, DIAC remains inflexible to change their priority processing list. Sad to say but you will have to wait until the 1st of July before any action on your file will commence. I wish I could give you better news.

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Kind regards

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