

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 133)

*Future Changes and Processing Priorities*



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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.

## **Violence in Australia?**

Having spent the last couple of weeks in Japan as part of my multiple business trips I am reminded yet again upon my return of what a violent place Australia is to live. This time tragically the reminder comes from the voice of thousands of Indian international students living in Australia after many of their friends have been savagely attacked.

As Australians we cannot shy away from the fact that there is an element of racism exists in this country. Sadly it is expressed in a manner which is often violent by individuals or groups who live with violence on a day to day basis. It should be noted that these people who have attacked the Indian students in this country do not just limit their violence to Indians alone, they are often looking for any excuse to start any confrontation.

I wouldn't remotely contemplate walking from a train station in the western suburbs late at night. In fact I would be hesitant do this from any train station in Sydney. In Japan you can walk the streets late at night with no fear what-so-ever. The sad reality in Australia that in many areas it is no longer safe and it is about time the police and politicians wake up to themselves and take action. We owe the Indian students a debt of gratitude for standing up and shaking the public's middle class complacency.

I can only reassure those students looking forward to making a new life in this country that the vast majority of Australians are not racist and are happy to co-exist with many nationalities. My childhood like so many others was fortunate to grow up with many of our neighbours born in other countries. This has enriched our development as a nation as made us more accepting of other cultures.

It is up to the police to make our communities feel safe no matter what country you're

from and in this regard they have failed in their basic obligation to all Australian residents.

### **Migration: What Can We Expect Next?**

I can't remember a time where international students are so concerned that DAIC is going to change their policy that may stop them for applying for permanent residency. True there have been announcements that will be harder for some students but overall there is no great cause for alarm.

To try and help students keep things in perspective lets look at the proposed changes by DIAC and some of the rumours floating out there.

#### **English for trade applicants (Cooks, Hairdressers etc)**

This increases significantly from the minimum IELTS 5.0 on each to 6.0 on each on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 for the onshore EGSM applications. This will apply even if you have applied or been granted a 485 visa before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010.

DIAC has openly admitted it wants to curb the number of Cooks and Hairdresser trade applicants and they are using the English requirement as a tool to do this. We do not believe DIAC's explanation that they are trying to establish a higher English threshold, I mean nobody cares if a good Cook can speak a word of English, do they? Some of Japan's best cooks have worked then applied for migration here who would struggle to get 3.0 on IELTS and I wouldn't see the Prime Minister complaining about their cooking.

#### **Trade tests are coming next year to a processing centre near you!**

I can see the owners of these yet to be announced test centres salivating at the thought of thousands of petrified international students queuing up to pay them a hefty fee to test their newly acquired trade skills.

One has to wonder of the logic of students paying tens of thousands of dollars to obtain an esteemed AQF (Australian Qualification Framework) qualification in their field and then forced to prove their abilities by doing an extra test.

This step is really admitting the failure of our education system and then broadcast that fact over the international loudspeaker system. Is anyone really awake in DIAC's policy office? Maybe I should move to the planet Vulcan where nobody would contemplate the stupidity of such a move.

Students have all heard about the horror stories of studying in Australia; sardine cooking classes with 15 students per frypan, year long Certificates III in Cooking obtained after just 4-5 months and the defunct Sydney International College of Business investigated for handing out such certificates for large wads of cash.

How about fixing these problems first so students can have faith in our AQF system instead of forcing extra tests? These tests have been done in the past and only proved to be a complete waste of time.

### **Community Welfare Students – tougher English and drop in skill level?**

Spare a thought for the poor students studying these courses. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 a new IELTS requirement is expected to be introduced of around 7.0 on each section of the test. This will be in excess of DIAC's current requirement of 6.0 on each for this profession.

Secondly it is expected that the skill points level after just the Diploma education level will drop from the current 60 down to 40. There is no set date for this change but sometime next year has been mentioned on the AIWCW web site.

### **Fees Increases**

DIAC PR application fees for the 885,886,175,176 and 487 visas will rise from \$2105 to \$2525. The 485 visa increases from \$195 to \$230. Student visas increase from \$450 to \$540. These increases will take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> July (next week!).

### **Rumour 1**

Are the points for Cooks and Hairdressers going to be reduced from 60 points?

In a meeting between DIAC and the owners of several private education institutions last year assurances were given to them that DIAC has no intention to reduce the point's level for these two occupations. Students may notice that Cooks and Hairdressers are still even on the MODL list.

### **Rumour 2**

Is the law going to change on 1<sup>st</sup> September?

Remember laws can be changed anytime and are not limited to 1<sup>st</sup> of September or any other date. There is nothing we expect to change this coming September.

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