

IMMIGRATION NEWS

Volume 145

AIWCW Changes new IELTS start date (again)
Closure of the Capital Investment Option
New IELTS Test Centre at UWS



13th August 2009

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. This free service is provided by Australian Immigration Law Services. Also welcome to the new subscribers.

Many welfare worker diploma students will be very relieved to read that the AIWCW has changed the dates from 1st September 2009 to 1st Feb 2010 when they are going to introduce the new IELTS requirement. Below is the information taken from their web site.

I don't mean to be rude to the AIWCW but this has been the fourth time in the last 12 months they have changed the dates to implement their new rules. Their members are well regarded for their compassion and empathy but honestly, strong determination in decision making doesn't seem one of their strong points.

They should have kept to your original implementation plans and not be so easily swayed by DIAC's pressure.

Change to the Implementation Date for English Language Proficiency Requirements.

The Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers Inc (AIWCW) has amended the implementation date of the English Language Requirements for recognition as a welfare worker under provision of the General Skilled Migration program to now take effect from 1 February 2010.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) had requested that the intended changes to the English Language requirements for recognition as a welfare worker be implemented as soon as possible after it was determined that an English language level was required. An implementation date was then set at 30 September 2009.

The AIWCW acknowledges the right of the Government to make rules and requests relating to migration and labour market factors. However

representations and concerns have been expressed by students to members of the National Executive Committee.

After further consideration, the AIWCW has determined that the implementation date will be amended to 1 February 2010. This is intended to minimise the impact on students completing their two years of study during 2009.

None of the other English language requirements has been changed.

(For more information on the proposed changes see Volume 134 of MIMIGRATON NEWS on our web using the following link:
http://www.australiavisa.com/english/new_newsletter.htm
this should be posted on our web site this week)

Closure of the Capital Investment Scheme (100K) on 31 October 2009

(From DIAC's Web Site)

From 31 October 2009, the South Australian Government Financing Authority (SAFA) has announced it will not accept any further applications from General Skilled Migration (GSM) applicants who wish to lodge a capital investment, as it will close the scheme.

Since the announcement of the reopening of the capital investment scheme by SAFE on 29 January 2009, the department has contacted all applicants whose cases had been assessed and who indicated they intended to lodge a capital investment.

Any applicants, who have indicated they intend to lodge a capital investment, but have not yet done so, are advised to finalise their capital investment before the scheme is closed.

This is the final opportunity for all pre 1 September 2007 GSM applicants to lodge a capital investment. Applications will then be finalised. As there will be no further capacity for applicants to make a capital investment to gain the bonus five (5) points, the department will not provide applicants any additional time to make a capital investment once the scheme offered by SAFA closes. Please note that this also applies to those applicants who have appealed to the Migration Review Tribunal (MRT) and those applicants seeking judicial review.

Applicants who still intend to make a capital investment are strongly urged to do so before 31 October 2009.

Please note that only SAFA provides an approved designated security that

enables an applicant for a pre-1 September 2007 GSM visa to be awarded bonus points for making a capital investment.

Link: <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/capital-investment-scheme-faqs.htm#f>

New IELTS Centre Opens at University of Western Sydney

To help fleece more international students of their money, the UWS has decided to cash in of the current shortage of available places by opening a new IELTS Test Centre. Their details are;

UWS IELTS Test Centre
Phone: 02 9685 9709
Email: ielts.enquiries@uws.edu.au

Pretty soon IELTS tests centres will multiply like Pokies at RSL Clubs. Think you'd have better chance with the Pokies though.

Readers Comments

Speaking of IELTS test Centres, Raj writes;

Dear Karl,

Each time I read your newsletter, I can only think of two words, 'Thank You'! I think you are giving the real image of what is happening with International Students. And I am so glad that Mr. Bob Birrell is not a migration agent. Reading his comments on International Students it seems like he is not happy with his current job and trying to give some funny, weird figures to government so that they can give him some good by believing that he is a big ECONOMIST and will definitely do good for Aus Economy..

Anyways, moving to another controversial topic which is of course IELTS, I would like to criticize Macquarie University in strongest terms. I have appeared for IELTS exams 2 times: getting 8.5, 8, 7.5 and 6.5 in writing once and close enough in another one but not 7 in writing. Anyways, that's not my point, I got my result by mail from Macquarie Uni. My TRF (test report form) was attached to one brochure from Macquarie, here is what it reads: Dear Candidate, **Did you receive the result you wanted? If not, join our IELTS master online course at ieltsonline.com.au to improve you bands.**

Karl, do you think it's fair? I mean, does it happen at school or University level that with result (failure result) we receive some kind of promotion from our respective educational provider begging for an enrollment in some extra courses that would

really boost our scores in studies. I mean, when I booked my IELTS at Macquarie...I don't remember if I checked any option to receive marketing letter specially with my RESULT. Are you doing education business, or you are trying to promote yourself like an Airline? The more we travel, the more loyalty points we get. I won't be surprised if in near future we will be given extra half band for attempting 5 exams in five consecutive months from the same test centre. My parents always taught me that Education can never be sold or bought, but I wonder my parents were wrong. IELTS exam in MQ university generally starts at 9 and we are supposed to be there by 7. Guess what, when we enter the premises instead of seeing banners of 'Good Luck' we see banners from MQ about their Additional Courses that reads the same lines that I have mentioned above. Not only this, MQ even line up students who are in waiting list (Yes, same concept from AirLines), if any students would not show up for their exam, student who is waiting list would be given entry (First come, First serve), in few hours....Exam was supposed to start at 9 but WaitingList students are coming till 9:15 and exam can not start unless whole class is full, this is like....Qantas would not take off unless they have equal number of passengers as their seats. Well done Macquarie, very well done...Now I understand that person like me will never win in this dirty business (IELTS). IELTS is dirty business, and will always be unless some central body will start looking after it.

I am not sure Karl whether you will publish my comments, but I would appreciate if you can at least add my comments on IELTS. I really want to hear your view on MQ's business strategies..

Thanks
Raj

Our reply; Raj I've printed all you had to say because I'm absolutely astonished of how blatantly the IELTS people think they can make money from international students. In my opinion the way they are running their business they are simply giving themselves such a negative reputation. The government has laws which govern businesses so they do not create an unfair monopoly in the market place yet strangely DIAC does not seem concerned that they have created a monster which is accountable to no-one. Thanks for bringing this to my attention and I think your comments are spot on.

Next?

Many Students are confused when they lodge their visa applications when their Bridging visas take over and how this relates to permission to work, especially when they have a longer student visa that goes on for months longer.

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Make your comments for all to read, comments@australiavisa.com
I promise that even if you don't like what I write I will print your reply. Please limit them to 300 words and they cannot be questions regarding migration regulations or points test requirements.

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Kind regards

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