

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

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*DIAC Manoeuvres to shake up the GSM System*



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Dear Students

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## **DIAC manoeuvres to shake up the GSM system**

In consultation with key state and territory representatives DIAC has unveiled its **proposed** changes to the general skilled migration program. These changes will have a dramatic impact upon those international students who are planning to lodge EGSM applications when they finish their 2 years of study next year.

IMMIGRATION NEWS has obtained a copy of the DIAC paper prepared to discuss these future changes. You can find this paper attached as a PDF file. An extract from the paper reads;

### **“A NEW SKILLED MIGRATION MODEL**

**Targets** applicants (including in the Independent category) with skills of high economic value and in the numbers required by the labour market;

**Selects** skilled migrants on the basis of those who score the highest rather than those who simply meet the prescribed pass mark;

**Changes** the relationship between the lodgment of an application and the legal obligation to grant a visa, thereby eliminating long and costly visa application pipelines;

**Is agile** and responsive to decisions to increase or decrease the size of the permanent migration program; and

**Complements** the ‘demand-driven’ employer sponsored visa categories.”

## **DIAC plans to cut students from the waiting lists**

Currently there are 137,500 applicants waiting to be processed for GSM visas alone. This is more than double the entire current 65,300 places allocated to international students. In addition to this DIAC is receiving about 10,000 applications a month so by the end of the financial year (June 2010) there will be approximately another 60,000 will be joining the current backlog.

One of the most concerning aspects of DIAC's plans above is that they intend to cut students from the waiting lists to "eliminating long and costly visa application pipelines".

**This will mean that there will no longer be any certainty of gaining your visa just because you lodged your application. There is also the possibility DIAC may retrospectively apply these changes to those students already waiting for their residency on bridging visas.**

IMMIGRATION NEWS will provide more information on these proposed changes as the information comes to light.

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Kind regards

Karl Konrad  
Managing Director  
Australian Immigration Law Services  
Publishers of IMMIGRATION NEWS

MARN: 9904238

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](mailto:sydney@australiavisa.com) | w: [www.australiavisa.com](http://www.australiavisa.com)

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