

IMMIGRATION NEWS

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Dear Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS and to the new subscribers. This free service is brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services. You can subscribe by using the link below or by visiting our web site.



Law Changes to Accept Old TRA Trade Assessments

As we discussed in our last newsletter DIAC has announced today that they will accept the TRA skill assessments dated before the 1st January 2010 for those former international students who wish to use them to apply for the onshore 885, 886 or 487 visas. These former students are the lucky ones who will escape the new dreaded TRA Job Ready Program and its associated \$4000+ price tag.

Please be careful before you make your decision to apply that you meet all the appropriate requirements for each of these onshore GSM visas.

Please refer to DIAC's website using the following link.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/whats-new.htm>

This is a good example that if enough reasonable submissions are provided to DIAC they can change their minds and alter their new policies and legislation. Congratulations to the Migration Institute Australia (MIA) and others that presented many arguments in students favor.

Priority Processing the Real Reason?

While I've got your attention you may want to read the comment below made from the DIAC's Director of Independent Skilled Migration Policy Ms. Katherine Whitehead at a recent seminar for professional migration agents in Sydney on the 4th March 2010. It relates to a discussion about the current processing arrangements in force for GSM applications. She stated;



"This is why we have priority processing arrangements otherwise we would be delivering people with the same skills in oversupply and that's the governments concern that they don't want us delivering people with the same skills which will in turn result in unemployment.

Potentially these applicants cannot find work in their nominated occupation, those applicants will probably take on semi skilled work and that will force out Australian

Citizens and permanent residents".

When I heard this comment I wondered to myself, is she serious? I had to rewind the recording just to be sure I heard it correctly. Is this the only excuse DIAC can come up with to delay tens of thousands former international students to obtain their PR visas. Some of these poor souls have been waiting since 2006 on Bridging visas.

Perhaps I could understand if she was referring to offshore applicants who were not in Australia already but the processing arrangements also affect onshore applicants as well.

It seems that DIAC hasn't realized that by keeping students on long term bridging visas while they wait for their PR to be finalized they are creating exactly the scenario they are trying to avoid. The number one complaint I hear from students looking for skilled employment in their occupation is that interviewers demand a permanent residence visa first.

Is there really a head sized sand box as standard issue on every senior DIAC officer's desk?

By leaving these poor souls on bridging visas long term, it is affecting their psychological and physical wellbeing by ensuring they are excluded from the normal process of professional career development which occurs after graduation. Australia is developing a bridging visa underclass of thousands of disenchanting young people who's skills and money this country once deemed so important yet are left to fend for themselves on the scrap heap of the semi skilled job market.

Hmmm. Perhaps Ms. Whitehead would like to think again about her public statement and realize it is important to grant all these long term bridging visa holders their permanent residence they deserve.

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Although I've been busy with all these changes lately I will get around to printing them.

I promise that even if you don't like what I write I will print your reply. Please limit them to 200 words and they cannot be questions regarding migration regulations or points test requirements.

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Kind regards

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