

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 94)

**AIWCW Delays IELTS Start Date
DIAC to increase Parent fees
Today's News Story**



10th September 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the new subscribers to this free service of IMMIGRATION NEWS which is brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services.

In this edition you will find information on the following;

- 1) AIWCW takes notice of the complaints and delays IELTS changes;
- 2) Parent Visa fees increase due to increase 27th October 2008;
- 3) The Australian newspaper reports overseas student numbers are still increasing

Feel free to e-mail this to any of your friends

1) AIWCW Takes Notice the Complaints of TAFE and Others

On the 29th of July we reported that the AIWCW was set to change the IELTS requirement to a tougher level from the beginning of January 2010 for the Welfare Workers skill assessment. This meant that most students would be able to finish their two year course before the change except for those who began their enrolment in July 2008.

After representations from TAFE and wider consultations, the AIWCW has now amended their starting date of the new IELTS requirement of 7.0 to February 2011.

The information released on the AIWCW web site is reproduced below;

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Summary Statement

Revision of English Language Requirements for AIWCW Recognition as a Welfare Worker

Following additional consultations, AIWCW has decided to withdraw its earlier announcement of the introduction of an English language requirement of IELTS Level 7.0 by 1st January 2010 for those wishing to be recognised as 'suitable as a welfare worker' for the purposes of participation in the General Skilled Migration program.

To allow adequate notice to those enrolled or planning to enrol in relevant courses, AIWCW now proposes a revised starting date of **1st February 2011**, with the IELTS Level yet to be determined. AIWCW will not seek a level in excess of 7.0, but will strongly urge that the level exceed 6.0. Exemptions will apply to those who can show a sufficient background and

experience with the English language over an extended period of time, and in particular, those resident in countries that have English as the primary language.

The details of the exemptions and other requirements of this regulation are yet to be determined. Interested persons are invited in the first instance to contact the AIWCW National Office, at the address below. Further consultations with interested persons and stakeholders will soon be conducted.

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2) DIAC is set to increase Parent Visa fees

On the 27th October 2008 DIAC is going to increase the second visa application charge for the Contributory Parent visa (subclass 143) and Contributory Aged Parent (subclass 884) from \$31,555 to \$32,725.

All those who apply for this visa before the 27th of October 2008 will save themselves (or their parents) \$1,170 per parent.

3) Today's Newspaper Story

High university costs fail to deter overseas students

The Australian: Guy Healy | *September 10, 2008*

OVERSEAS student enrolments in universities have recorded their highest growth since the second half of 2006, defying the high cost of an Australian education driven by the dollar's exchange rate.

Enrolments in the higher education sector increased 4.6per cent to 177,954 students, while commencements increased 12per cent to 73,118 over July 2007, Australian Education International statistics show.

China, India and Malaysia were the three largest contributors in enrolments and commencements. China recorded the largest growth in commencements with a 22.8 per cent increase. India recorded growth of only 3.5 per cent.

Hong Kong-based international education consultant Alan Olsen told the HES that the AEI figures for July were among the most eagerly anticipated, as they gave Australia "a good handle on what will happen in (the) second semester".

Starts in the second half of the year fit the northern hemisphere timetable and July accounted for 80 per cent of commencing international higher education students in the

second semester, he said.

"Growth in enrolments in the last four semesters has been 2 per cent, 4 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent, continuation of single-digit growth rather than a surge," Mr Olsen said.

He said commencements in vocational education and training, English language and schools "continue to go gangbusters". With many of these students in pathways to higher education, this was good news for universities that wanted to expand their international student programs, he said.

"With more students articulating to universities from these pathways, the currency model, which linked the rising value of the Australian dollar with drops in commencements 18 months later, got it totally wrong in July and has been sent to the recycle bin," Mr Olsen said.

He had developed a model in which currency drove demand with a lag.

In May, the HES reported Australian universities were bracing for a projected \$252 million hit to their crucial overseas student intakes, but that the latest figures suggested they might be let off the hook because of the success of pathway programs.

The Australian dollar, which is known to influence overseas students' decisions about where they study, was US96c in May.

Asked yesterday if demand defying the dollar meant universities were charging too little, Mr Olsen said: "It doesn't mean we are underpricing. It means the quality of educational experience is becoming more important than price."

He said the fact students weren't deterred by the rising value of the currency "tells us that price is not the driver of demand. We mustn't continue to think Australia is a less expensive destination."

Pointing to an AEI survey last year that found 84 per cent of overseas students surveyed were satisfied with their study experience and 87 per cent would recommend it to their friends, he said the evidence showed Australia was a quality destination.

Although some universities relied on income from overseas students far more than others, on average it accounted for about 15 per cent of revenue.

Overseas students comprised almost 20 per cent of university students and a similar proportion of postgraduate research students in Australia.

End Story

Link: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24320195-12332,00.html>

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