

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 67)

*Global College - Under Investigation*



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Dear Students

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

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## **Global College Investigated for Enrolment Scam**

Yet another education provider in Sydney is under the spotlight. This time Global College is currently under investigation by the NSW Vocational Education & Training Accreditation Board (VETAB) for the irregularities in its enrolment patterns. VETAB issues the permission to schools to operate in NSW.

It is estimated that nearly 300 students had received Confirmation of Offer Letters for the Diploma of Hospitality (Cooking), paid their fees but then given enrolment COE's for Business Diploma's instead. It is alleged that Global College issued offer letters to students without having approval for the number of students they were offering to.

These students are now on a so called "waiting list" for the course they thought they had paid for. They are angry at the College owners who are not saying when they will be able to do the course they were offered and many have been forced to leave the school. It is alleged that the school was not able to meet its obligations towards these students at the time they paid their fees. Management of the school refuses to talk to the students regarding this issue.

One of the students who is currently studying at Global College is Al Razi Khan. His brother Shakari Khan (who is an Australian permanent resident) and Al Razi attended our office very upset in the manner the school had treated them.

Al Razi went to an education agent where he was advised that a cooking course provided a good skill level and is an effective pathway where he could be sponsored by his brother for residency. Global College was recommended as he was told they had vacancies for enrolment. Upon this advice the application was made to enroll Al Razi to the school and a successful "Confirmation of Offer Letter" was issued by Global College. The letter clearly stated the course is for a Diploma of Hospitality due to start 17 days later.

On the basis this offer letter the agent was paid the \$4900 deposit required to start the course. The fees were paid in full by his brother Shakari as he is supporting his education and stay here.

In the next two days Al Razi then went to Global College to pick up his Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) for the Diploma of Hospitality. When he arrived there he was then given a COE for a Diploma of Business. When he questioned the administration staff he was told that the school had applied for extra places for the cooking course but they had not been approved. He was assured that if he started the Business Diploma he would be transferred to the Hospitality Diploma soon afterwards.

With less than 2 weeks remaining to start studying there was no time to look for another course so even though Al Razi felt misled he had no choice but to do the business course.

At Global College Al Razi soon realised that he was not the only person in similar circumstances. There were numerous classes in the Diploma of Business and he estimated that about 200 students had the same story to tell. Every single student in his particular class (about 40) was in the same position as him. None of them wanted to be in the Business Diploma and they were all told the same story, to wait for the transfer to the Diploma of Hospitality.

Al Razi said he complained to the management and asked when he would be able to be transferred. He was continually told by the staff the transfer would be soon. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2007 Al Razi received a letter from Mr. Greg ASKEW, Director of Vocational Studies, Global College stating that he was on a "waiting list" for the Diploma of Hospitality. This letter did not indicate when Al Razi's turn on this waiting list would come up.

IMMIGRATION NEWS sent the Principle Executive Officer of Global College Ms. Lydia HONG a fax outlining these concerns about this waiting list. Ms. Hong has not replied to our fax. Ms. Hong has not returned our calls to discuss these issues either. When we asked to speak to Mr. ASKEW we were told he was away on sick leave.

Last week Al Razi returned to the college after his holidays to discover he was the only student left in his class. It's now just him and the teacher. He believes the other students grew tired of waiting to be transferred into the Hospitality Diploma and have now found cooking courses in other schools. Al Razi is worried and is looking for another school too. He has written a letter to Ms. Hong asking Global College to refund all of his student fees.

Al Razi's brother Shakir is very angry at Global College and plans to complain to the Department of Fair Trading. In moving his brother to another school it is going to cost him more money and wasted 4-6 months of study time for Al Razi.

IMMIGRATION NEWS spoke to the education agent who placed Al Razi in Global College. He said he was extremely disappointed for Al Razi and now no longer refers students to Global College. The agent said he had placed a few

students in Global College thinking they were all going to start the Diploma of Hospitality. He believed the school deliberately oversubscribed the offer letters. In speaking to other agents he estimates about 300 students were affected from this practice. The agent reported that the school is having major problems at the moment with its management and many staff has left.

VETAB is now investigating Global College regarding these events.

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Coming up next? - Navigating the State Sponsorship maze for permanent residency (886 visa) and temporary residency (487 visa).

Stay tuned.

Kind regards

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