

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 61)

Some New Year Resolutions for 2008



2nd January 2008

Dear Students

Welcome all to the New Year and the new subscribers of IMMIGRATION NEWS. We hope you find this latest edition interesting. This service is brought to you by Australian Immigration Law Services.

IMMIGRATION NEWS has now over 5000 direct subscribers who are mostly international students but we have quite a number of education agents (both here and overseas), teachers and school administrators. Please feel free to e-mail this newsletter to any of your friends.

Some of Our New Year Resolutions for 2008?

- 1) Writing Articles About Unethical Behaviour Of Certain Registered Training Organisations (RTO`S);**
- 2) Latest DIAC policy releases about the Skilled Migration Program (you will get them here first);**
- 3) Providing plain English examples about the Points System;**
- 4) Provide some human interest stories about what it's like to study in Australia as an International Student;**
- 5) Inform students of what visa options they have so they can make the best choice(s)**

Registered Training Organisations (RTO`S)

Over the last ten years of running this practice I've heard many horror stories about what some international students face when studying in Australia. Whilst any form of study can be difficult to master at times these stories specifically relate the manner of how many international students are treated by the administration of certain registered schools, otherwise known officially as Registered Training Organisations (RTO's).

International students in a strange country who able to stay here on the basis what may feel like just a piece of paper in their passports, life can feel very vulnerable. There are many financial and family pressures to do well in their studies and most feel powerless when they come up against unfair practices within their school.

Our office had decided that it's time to shine some light of some of these dark corners of

power within any RTO's who try to take advantage of international students. There are formal avenues where students can lodge complaints about the behaviour of schools and students should be encouraged to do this. However in many ways this can feel like dealing with just another bureaucratic organisation which does not really care.

We would like the message to get out to students, we care about the way you are treated and you are not on your own.

Sydney International College of Business

Over the last couple of months our office has been conducting an investigation into a RTO in Sydney which trades as the **Sydney International College of Business (SICB)**. Over the years this school has grown considerably by offering courses in Cooking and then Hairdressing and has over 1000 students enrolled in various courses. Last year as we wrote about how the school had its CRICOS registration suspended for most of their courses.

Recently we have received many disturbing reports from students about the actions of the schools administration. We now have evidence that the school has been blatantly breaking the law. A former student, whose identity will be protected, has given us her story about how she was treated. The full article will be released on Sunday the 6th January.

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Kind regards

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