

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

*Volume 95*

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18th October 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. Welcome to the new subscribers.

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

## **Mass Panic at Carrick**

Hundreds of students who completed their studies at Carrick Institute of Education are nervously waiting to see if their residency EGSM applications will be rejected.

The problem has arisen when Carrick management changed the CRICOS registration period from 89 weeks to 102 weeks of the Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management whilst students had already started their courses. Last year the school sent emails to all the enrolled students and informed them they could use the new CRICOS registration period when they finished. Hundreds have in fact finished and lodged their residency files.

The panic began when a few students started to receive rejection letters and before long hundreds were rushing to the school looking for answers fearing they will be next.

It is reported that the school held a meeting and admitted that when they changed the CRICOS code they did not upgrade the COE's for those who were studying at the time. DIAC has in fact used the old COE's to determine that 89 weeks was the period which did not meet the minimum 92 weeks necessary. One of the rejected students came to my office and we immediately lodged a complaint to the Director of the Brisbane Skilled Processing Centre. Our office was subsequently contacted and told all Carrick students who completed this course after the 01/09/07 would have their applications suspended (no further rejections) until the Canberra DIAC Skilled Migration Policy Section make a decision.

It has been a long week and we are still waiting.

Last year the Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre (ASPC) informed our office that they were aware of schools extending their CRICOS periods whilst students were undertaking the courses. They confirmed with us that they would be taking the new CRICOS period at the time the students lodge their applications, not the registration period at the time they started their course. This current problem seems to exist because the ASPC did not seem to pass this information on to the new Brisbane Skilled Processing Centre (BSPC).

The Director at the BSPC supported our argument that it was not fair to the students so we are hopeful of a common sense outcome not to reject any more students and those who have been rejected will have the decision reversed. The Carrick Institute of Education is certainly not the only provider which has extended a course COE whilst students have been enrolled. A few universities changed their 12 unit 78 week Master programs into 104 week programs to the perceived benefit of those enrolled. DIAC's final decision may have an impact or more than just a few hundred students.

We attempted to contact management at Carrick last week for their comment but they did not return our calls.

Stay tuned.

## **Recent News Stories**

### Comment

Speaking of mass panic, the concerns of an economic meltdown have had some Australians call for a cut in the migration numbers. After the government set a new 19.8% rise in numbers for this financial year some in the government are worried this may be too many given the uncertain future ahead. Fortunately there are many of us who think the opposite and now is certainly not the time to cut the skilled migration numbers, particularly international students.

Perhaps a thought should also be done to giving equal points to all occupations so to stop the large movement of international students to vocational courses. Melbourne University staff are feeling the pinch in trying to fill their Arts courses and thus jobs are on the line. We feel they should make equal points and perhaps create another few universities? More students, more jobs, why not?

One also has to question whether it was such a good time to raise a tougher visa requirement for Indian international students coming to study here for higher education. This decision has been blamed for losing 500 higher education jobs in Victoria as the number of Indian students plummeted. Perhaps

the DIAC official who thought up the idea to raise the assessment level from 3 to 4 should lose their job?

## **More people want migration cut: study**

Sydney Morning Herald - October 13, 2008 - 6:06AM

<http://news.smh.com.au/national/more-people-want-migration-cut-study-20081013-4z8f.html>

## **Rudd flags cut in migrant numbers**

Sydney Morning Herald - October 10, 2008 - 9:56AM

<http://news.smh.com.au/national/rudd-flags-cut-in-migrant-numbers-20081010-4xvd.html>

## **Migration is the key to our future**

The Australian - COMMENT: Warren Bebbington | *October 15, 2008*

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,24497171-25192,00.html>

## **Vic universities to cut up to 500 jobs**

Sydney Morning Herald - October 17, 2008 - 4:09PM

<http://news.smh.com.au/national/vic-universities-to-cut-up-to-500-jobs-20081017-531k.html>

## **Students in protest raid over cuts to arts staff**

The Australian - Andrew Trounson | *May 13, 2008*

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,23688820-12332,00.html>

### **Next Newsletters?**

18 attempts and still cannot obtain 6.0 on each! Is IELTS really accurate or just a money making exercise?

A look at the available Professional Years for the 10 points

Law changes on the 27th October ?

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Kind regards

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