

IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 105)

TODAY'S NEWS STORIES



Today's Newspaper Story Concerning International Students

29th December 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. Today's articles come from the Sydney Morning Herald. The article is also repeated in The Age.

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

Editorial

The temptation is always there to take illegal short cuts in order to gain residency in Australia. Students who decide to take such a path risk their future of a life in Australia. Most do not realise that giving false documentation to DIAC can attract a 10 year jail term under the Migration Act.

Those individuals who provide the mechanisms to organise false documentation for students do not explain the possible consequences. For years they have escaped unscathed with the money they skim from students. Perhaps the tables are beginning to turn against them. Sadly DIAC has focused its attention to this problem about 10 years too late, but perhaps too late is better than never.

Remember next time when someone offers you a quick fix solution for a few thousand dollars, do not be tempted.

Cash-for-certificates companies raided

Sydney Morning Herald
Chris Johnston
December 29, 2008

IN WHAT could be one of the largest-ever migration scams involving overseas

students, nine businesses were raided in connection with allegations that they charged thousands of dollars for fake certificates and work references.

In a series of raids on city and suburban addresses just before Christmas, nine Melbourne businesses - including a private training college, a curry restaurant, graphic design studios and business and education consultants - were raided by federal immigration officers and the Australian Federal Police.

Migration sources said it was believed similar scams were operating in other capital cities.

A spokesman for the Department of Immigration said: "It is alleged that for a fee those involved have been providing clients with fraudulent education qualifications and bogus work references to assist them in obtaining Australian permanent residence through the skilled migration program."

Several people are likely to be charged with migration fraud offences following a year-long investigation. The main office raided was registered as a business consultancy owned by Gary Zhou and Jane Zhao. It was allegedly operating as an unregistered migration agency.

Immigration sources said the company allegedly co-ordinated a scam believed to involve hundreds of international students, mainly from China and India.

Among the "large volume" of evidence seized were laptops and desktop computers.

It will be alleged that students were able to buy fake education results for courses at a private training college.

Students are also alleged to have bought fake work experience documents from an Indian restaurant in the city and from graphic design and printing studios in North Melbourne and Oakleigh South.

The students did not attend the college or the workplaces.

Immigration sources said students caught in the scams had already paid tuition fees of up to \$20,000 before paying between \$7000 and \$20,000 extra for bogus documents.

An education agency in Caulfield was also raided. Financial records of a deregistered company previously owned by Mr Zhou were also seized.

International students seeking permanent residency must provide proof of their education and vocational work experience.

A spokesman for the Minister of Immigration, Chris Evans, said last night the

raids were an indication that migration fraud against international students "would not be tolerated".

Link: www.smh.com.au/news/national/cashforcertificates-companies-raided/2008/12/28/1230399045722.html

Subscription to IMMIGRATION NEWS?

If you haven't subscribed yet to IMMIGRATION NEWS but would like to join the other 5000+ recipients, send us an e-mail, subscribe@australiavisa.com

Wish them to stop then, unsubscribe@australiavisa.com

Kind regards

Karl Konrad
Managing Director
Australian Immigration Law Services
Publishers of IMMIGRATION NEWS

MARN: 9904238

Australian Immigration Law Services
Level 13, 37 York Street
Sydney NSW 2000
t: 61 2 9279 1991 | f: 61 2 9279 1994
e: sydney@australiavisa.com | w: www.australiavisa.com

Disclaimer and Copyright

IMMIGRATION NEWS is intended to provide general information on migration issues and does not constitute legal advice and no responsibility is accepted by Australian Immigration Law Services (AILS) for the accuracy of material appearing in IMMIGRATION NEWS.

People seeking advice on migration law should seek advice from a registered migration agent.

The copyright of IMMIGRATION NEWS belongs to Australian Immigration Law Services (AILS) and no part of IMMIGRATION NEWS is to be reproduced by any means without the written consent of AILS.

Australian Immigration Law Services is a trading name licensed to AILS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
2912008KK