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Work visa scams. Don't pay the price

The Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash, has launched in October, a national campaign to investigate allegations of unauthorised payment to visa sponsors in return for visas.

Minister Cash said although the overwhelming majority of people do the right thing, it is a small minority who don't abide by their obligations or attempt to defraud our migration programmes.

"Visa fraud is not acceptable and anyone who engages in this type of behaviour will face serious penalties,"

"The campaign will involve an initial assessment of up to 100 visa sponsors who are subject to allegations that they have been in some way connected to receiving payment for arranging sponsorship for individuals under the 457 visa programme." Minister Cash said.

A business that sponsors a visa holder under false pretences may also be committing other offences, such as providing false or misleading information or engaging in misleading or deceptive conduct. Potential employer sponsored visa applicants should beware scams and bogus sponsorship arrangements and should never pursue such applications. For more information please contact David Bitel, managing partner.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/mc/2014/mc218247.htm>

Overseas Skills Registry expanded to include more international student graduates

The Victorian Government's Overseas Skills Registry connects Victorian employers with overseas qualified skilled workers and international students who have skills in demand.

The eligibility criteria for international student graduates on the Overseas Skills Registry is expanding to include international graduates who have completed a recognised professional year.

International students will now be required to:

- Hold a Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485)
- Have a skilled occupation that is in demand in Victoria
- Have a degree qualification, or higher, that is related to their profiled occupation and from an onshore Australian university
- Live in Victoria
- Have a minimum of two years professional work experience in their profiled occupation or have completed a recognised professional year.

For more information visit liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au/overseasskillsregistry

New English Language Test s

Legislative Instrument 14/076 [F2014L01538] Migration Regulations 1994 - Specification of Language Tests, Score and Passports specifies English language proficiency and the test scores which are used to prove this proficiency.

The instrument specifies English language proficiency and test scores (and passports which can be used as proof of English language proficiency) for:

Applications lodged before 1 July 2012 – no change, IELTS and OET

Applications lodged after 1 July 2012 – no change, IELTS and OET

Applications lodged on and after 23 November 2014.

For applications lodged on and after 23 November 2014:

Reg 1.15B – Vocational English

IELTS – 5 in each of the four sections

OET – B in each of the four sections

TOEFL iBT – Speaking 14, Reading 4, Writing 14, Listening 4

Pearson (PTE Academic) – 36 for the four components

OR a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, to a citizen of that country

Reg 1.15C – Competent English

IELTS – 6 in each of the four sections

OET – B for each of the four components

TOEFL iBT – Speaking 18, Reading 13, Writing 21, Listening 12

Pearson (PTE Academic) – at least 50 for the four components

OR a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, to a citizen of that country

Reg 1.15D – Proficient English

IELTS – 7 in each of the four sections

OET – B for each of the four components

TOEFL iBT – Speaking 23, Reading 24, Writing 27, Listening 24

Pearson (PTE Academic) – at least 65 for the four components

Reg 1.15 EA – Superior English

IELTS – 8 in each of the four sections

OET – A for each of the four components

TOEFL iBT – Speaking 26, Reading 29, Writing 30, Listening 28

Pearson (PTE Academic) – at least 79 for the four test components

This instrument commences on 23 November 2014.

Changes to resettlement another blow to people smugglers

Asylum seekers who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014 will no longer be eligible for resettlement in Australia, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. Scott Morrison said.

The change was part of the Government's ongoing work in the region to strip people smugglers of a product to sell to vulnerable men, women and children.

We know smugglers continue to encourage asylum seekers to travel illegally to Indonesia for the purpose of seeking resettlement in Australia.

'These changes should reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in or from countries of first asylum.'

Australia will continue to resettle some refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014, however there will not be as many places allocated, meaning the waiting period in Indonesia to be resettled in Australia will be much longer.

The Government does not support asylum seekers travelling illegally to transit countries in search of more favourable resettlement destinations.

In 2014–15, Australia's Humanitarian Programme will provide 13,750 places. These will include 11,000 places for people overseas, nearly all of whom will be in countries of first asylum.

Registration of Sydney migration agent cancelled

Migration agents are being warned to act lawfully following the cancellation of the registration of a Sydney migration agent.

The Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (Office of the MARA) found that Mr Issam Sam Issa, a lawyer and a migration agent, allegedly encouraged and assisted clients to fabricate claims for protection visas in order to remain in Australia.

Minister Cash said the migration agent had not only acted unlawfully but had not provided immigration assistance which was in the best interests of his clients.

'This former agent lodged applications with little or no prospect of success and created statements purporting to have originated from his clients,' Minister Cash said.

'His conduct fell well short of the standards set out under the Code of Conduct for registered migration agents and he posed a serious risk to consumers.'

'Only people who are registered with the Office of the MARA are permitted to give immigration assistance.

This case is a timely reminder to clients NOT to expect agents to assist them to create bogus claims. For more information on the correct role of lawyers and migration agents contact David Bitel and Michael Jones in our office.

'Phoney' Coalition refugee intake

Australia will quarantine one-third of its humanitarian program for Iraqis and Syrians fleeing the violence of terror group Islamic State, but refugee advocates have condemned the government for reducing its refugee intake despite the growing crisis in the Middle East.

Sweden has announced it will take unlimited numbers of Syrian refugees and Germany said it would take an additional 10,000, bringing its intake to 20,000. Norway will accept an extra 1000.

Australia reduced its humanitarian program refugee intake last year from 20,000 to 13,750.

For this financial year, 4,400 of those 13,750 places will be reserved for Iraqis and Syrians who have fled violence and genocide in their countries.

Immigration minister Scott Morrison said more places were available under Australia's special humanitarian program (a sub-category of the humanitarian program) because of the government's "success ... in stopping the flow of boats".

Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul condemned the "false dichotomy" of separating refugees who received visas to Australia offshore from those who reached Australia by boat.

David Manne, from the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, said that Australia has reduced its humanitarian intake at a time when there has never been greater need in the world for humanitarian protection.

Currently, more than 50 million people are refugees or displaced within their own countries.

Human Rights Law Centre director Daniel Webb said, At that time of unprecedented need, the simple fact is "Australia is doing less than it can, less than it should and less than it has done previously".

Other Family Visa Queue

2014 – 15 Migration Programme

The Australian Government has reduced the number of places available under the Other Family category from 585 in the 2013-14 financial year to 500 in the 2014-15 financial year.

Most of the 500 Other Family visa places will be allocated to the Carer visa category with fewer places allocated to the Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visa categories. This reflects the priority that is given to the Carer visa by the Australian Government in managing the Migration Programme.

Processing priorities for Other Family category visa applications are determined by the government.

To ensure equity, all Other Family visa applications are first assessed against the relevant criteria in the order they are lodged. Applications that meet the relevant criteria are then assigned a queue date and placed in the global queue.

The processing time for an application to reach queue status varies depending on the complexity of the individual case, how quickly you respond to requests for further information and caseload sizes at the individual processing office.

Queuing information

After a visa application has been queued, DIBP does not usually contact the client again until the application is released from the queue. Once released from the queue, applications will be considered for final processing as a place in the Migration Programme becomes available.

Applicants can visit the DIBP website to find where they are placed in the queue.

At final processing, applicants must continue to meet the relevant criteria and satisfy any outstanding requirements for the visa application to be granted. These include health, character, assurance of support (for Remaining Relative and Aged Dependent Relative visas) and is applicable payment of the second instalment of the visa application charge.

Delays in final processing

There was a significant reduction in the number of visa places made available by the Government for Other Family visas in the 2013-14 programme year from 1285 to 585.

A large number of applications had already been released from the queue in 2012-13 but due to the reduction in visa places for the following year, in many cases final processing has not been able to progress. This relates to Carer visa applications with queue dates to 31 March 2013 and to Aged Dependent Relative and Remaining Relative visa applications with queue dates to 30 June 2011.

This delay in final processing remains for the 2014-15 programme year.

For more information contact Thong Nguyen at our office.

500th Significant Investor Visa Granted

The visa was granted to an investor from China who was nominated by the Victorian Government.

Minister Cash said this visa grant is an historic milestone for the SIV programme.

The SIV programme is now realising its potential \$2.36 billion has been invested into the Australian economy by recipients of this visa with complying investments ranging from State or Territory Government bonds, managed funds or direct investment into Australian companies.'

The SIV was introduced to provide a boost to the Australian economy and to compete effectively for high net worth individuals seeking investment migration. Migrant investors are required to invest AUD5 million into complying investments for a minimum of four years before being eligible to apply for a permanent visa.

Two countries, one visa for the 2015 Cricket World Cup

People visiting Australia and New Zealand for the 2015 Cricket World Cup will only need to apply for one visa under a new Trans–Tasman visa arrangement, Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Michaelia Cash said.

The International Cricket Council's Cricket World Cup will take place from 14 February to 29 March 2015, with all 14 qualifying teams to play matches in both Australia and New Zealand.

The Minister said between 26 January and 5 April 2015, New Zealand will grant a visa on arrival to visitors who already hold an Australian visa.

'This new visa arrangement will change the visa process for participants and spectators of the Cricket World Cup by only requiring them to apply for one visa in order to follow their teams to both countries.

Chief Executive of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015, John Harnden said, 'This is a real coup for fans travelling to Australia and New Zealand to witness the world's best players compete in the biggest sporting event of 2015.

International visitors will still be required to meet the respective health, security and character requirements of both countries and each country will retain the right to refuse entry if a visitor does not meet these requirements.

MIGRATION AND MARITIME POWERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT

(RESOLVING THE ASYLUM LEGACY CASELOAD) BILL 2014

The Government has tabled new legislation called the Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Bill 2014. Given the size and complexity of this Bill (the Bill is 118 pages and the Explanatory Memorandum is 251 pages), the full impact of the changes proposed in this legislation will take some time to assess

fully. In the interim, the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) has developed a preliminary list of the key aspects of the legislation and the Government's announcements, which advice we produce below.

If passed, this Bill would amend several pieces of legislation. It seeks to:

- Extend the Government's powers to stop asylum seeker boats at sea– The Bill would give the Minister responsible for the Maritime Powers Act greater power to direct the movement of vessels and people at sea, including the taking of a vessel or person to a place outside of Australia regardless of whether there is an agreement with the particular country.
- Restrict the courts' capacity to invalidate government actions at sea– The rules of natural justice would not apply to a range of powers in the Maritime Powers Act and a court would not be able to invalidate a government action at sea due to a failure to consider or comply with Australia's international obligations or the domestic law or international obligations of any other country.
- Make consideration of non-refoulement obligations irrelevant when removing a person – The Bill would clarify that the removal power is available even if an assessment of Australia's international obligations and consideration of the risk of refoulement has not occurred.
- Remove most references to the Refugee Convention in the Migration Act – The Bill would replace Refugee Convention definitions with the Government's interpretation of Australia's obligations. As part of this interpretation:
 - Options for internal relocation internal relocation internal relocation within the country of origin would have to be considered but consideration of this question would not encompass a "reasonableness" test.
 - Decision makers would be required to consider the extent to which a person could modify his or her behaviour in order to avoid persecution.
 - The definition of membership of a particular social group membership of a particular social group as grounds for a determining a wellfounded fear of persecution would be restricted.
 - There would be an expanded interpretation of who can be excluded who can be excluded under the definition of n be excluded "refugee".
 - Australia would designate a statutory formulation of its interpretation of what constitutes what constitutes effective state or non- effective state or non-state protection state protection state protection in considering whether a person has a well-founded fear.
- **Clarify the legal status of children born to asylum seekers in Australia and offshore processing countries** – The legislation would ensure that children born to parents who arrived by sea after 13 August 2012 are subject to transfer to an offshore processing country like their parents, as the children would have the same designation under the Migration Act as their parents. Children of parents who arrived before 13 August 2012 are not subject to offshore processing arrangements. The measures would be applied retrospectively.
- **Create a fast track assessment process** – People who arrived by sea on or after 13 August 2012 and seek asylum would be subject to a new fast track asylum process. There are provisions to expand the process to people who seek asylum after arriving by plane without a prior visa. People subject to fast track assessment would be expected to provide all claims and

supporting evidence at the beginning of the process. The production of new material later in the process would be allowed only if there were compelling reasons. While the timeframes are not yet clear for fast track processing, it is clear that most asylum seekers would not have access to funded legal advice and support to put forward their claims.

- **Limit independent merits review** – Asylum applicants deemed to be making manifestly unfounded claims, to have been owed protection in another country, to have presented fraudulent documents or previously rejected by a refugee status determination body in another country would be excluded from independent merits review while others would receive limited review via the Immigration Assessment Authority. Those denied merits review would have access to judicial review.

- **Create the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA)**– The IAA would conduct limited reviews for people who are not otherwise excluded. The IAA would sit within the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) and the Principal Member of the RRT would be responsible for the overall operation and administration of the IAA. The IAA’s statutory objective would be to provide a mechanism of limited review that is “efficient and quick” unlike the RRT’s objective to be “independent, fair, just, economical, informal and quick”. Applicants would have no right to apply, as only the Minister can make referrals to the IAA. The IAA would be under no duty to accept or request new information or interview an applicant and would be allowed to consider new information only in exceptional circumstances. IAA reviews would be conducted primarily on the available application rather than through a personal interview or hearing.

- **Allow the Minister to cap the number of Protection visas issued**– The legislation would allow the Minister to place a statutory limit on the number of permanent Protection visas granted in a program year. Only asylum seekers who entered Australia on a valid visa would be eligible for permanent protection.

- **Create new classes of Protection visas** – The Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) and the Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) would become the only Protection visas available to people found to be owed protection who arrived without a prior visa by sea or air, as well as for people those who arrived with a valid visa but were refused immigration clearance (including because they sought asylum on arrival). People on TPVs or SHEVs would not have the right to depart and re-enter Australia, access to family reunion or the option to apply for permanent protection. However, they would have access to work rights, employment services, Medicare and income support, torture and trauma counselling, translating and interpreting services, complex case support and access to education for school aged children and would be subject to mutual obligation arrangements.

- Under these arrangements, people found to be owed protection would be offered a TPV for up to three years. Each person granted a TPV would have the option of choosing to take up a SHEV, which would be valid for five years and would require the visa holder to work in a designated regional area without requiring income support for 3½ years of the visa period. However, accessing government assistance to study for a degree, diploma or trade certificate in a designated regional area would not be classified as accessing benefits and would be counted as being part of the 3½ years for which no support was received.
- Any SHEV holder completing 3½ years of work in a designated area without income support would be eligible to apply for any onshore visa (other than a permanent Protection Visa) if they meet the visa criteria.

- **Facilitate the possible release of people in detention** – Once the legislation is passed, asylum seekers detained on Christmas Island and on the Australian mainland who arrived between 19 July and 31 December 2013 may be eligible for release from detention and may be able to apply for a TPV or SHEV. People who arrived in the same period but have already been transferred to Nauru or to Manus Island would remain subject to the offshore processing arrangements and not allowed to apply for a TPV or SHEV. All future boat arrivals will be subject to offshore processing.

The above points reflect our best understanding of the legislation at this point.

New legislation strips away checks on Ministerial powers

The Federal Government's new legislation to change asylum and maritime powers laws is a comprehensive assault on Australia's obligations to protect victims of persecution, giving the Immigration Minister greater power than ever before to act as he wishes, the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) says.

RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said the 118-page Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Bill 2014 was the most significant set of changes to Australian asylum laws in a generation with nearly all of the changes aimed at stripping away the already limited safeguards for people seeking asylum.

“This legislation has been presented to the public as a humane political compromise between the Government and the Palmer United Party (PUP), focused on getting children out of detention on Christmas Island and providing refugees who reached Australia with a pathway to a permanent visa,” Mr Power said. “While we appreciate PUP's efforts to bring some much-needed humanity to the government's destructive agenda, unfortunately the legislation includes a vast array of changes designed to strip away fairness for people seeking refugee protection and reduce the likelihood that anyone could question the Immigration Minister's capacity to do largely as he pleases.

“Many of the changes are designed to prevent the courts from intervening to ensure that the Minister acts in accordance with the rule of law and in line with Australia's treaty obligations.

“If passed, the Bill would increase Ministerial powers to take a vessel or person to a place outside of Australia regardless of whether there is an agreement with the particular country and prevent the courts from acting if this action does not comply with Australia's international obligations or the laws or obligations of another country.

“Among many other measures, the legislation introduces a fast track asylum process which limits access to independent merits review, removes the possibility that children born in Australia to asylum seeker parents could seek Australian citizenship, replaces the Refugee Convention's definitions with the Government's own interpretation of Australia's obligations and makes it possible for the Government to remove asylum seekers without considering the risk of refoulement.”

Mr Power also said amendments promoted by PUP to allow asylum seekers who arrived between July and December 2013 to be released from detention and into the community were significant and positive but he expressed concerns about the ability of people to access permanent protection.

“People found to be in need of refugee protection have no pathway to permanent protection unless, after working in a designated regional area for three and a half years and satisfying a number of requirements, they may be able to apply for another migration visa. Unless the rules which apply to these visas are significantly changed, it is not likely that many refugees will meet the highly restrictive criteria which apply to other migration visas.

“Unless there is some pathway to permanency, we will again face the situation where large numbers of refugees struggle to survive in Australia with no security, no possibility with reuniting with separated family members and little hope.”

Mediacontact: contact: contact:AndrewWilliams Williams Williams 0488035535 (preliminary briefing follows this page)

We want children out of detention

Human Rights Commission president Gillian Triggs wants all children released from detention, including Nauru, saying Australia is responsible for the welfare of the children it is detaining.

a draft of the commission's inquiry into children in detention has been provided to the immigration department.

The inquiry has heard from workers in the detention centre and from Immigration Minister Scott Morrison and former Labor immigration minister Chris Bowen.

In light of allegations of child abuse on Nauru that has emerge, Professor Triggs said the report would also contain one chapter on Nauru exclusively.

The allegations, which are now subject to an independent review by the Federal government.

clearly want Australians to understand the facts and legal principles that lie behind the rights of asylum seekers [and] to give Australians a better and more accurate base of evidence to understand the role of detaining children and the impact on their health and welfare," she said.

During the third hearing of the inquiry into children in detention, Dr Peter Young revealed that the department had explicitly told International Health and Medical Services not to publish a report showing children in detention suffered very high levels of mental illness because of the harsh environment.

Professor Triggs said the commission had been campaigning for children to be released from detention since 1994.

Keeping asylum seeker children in detention - why do it?

The former and current ministers for immigration and border security, Chris Bowen and Scott Morrison, agree on one thing: that asylum seeker children are not detained to deter people smuggling. Rather, it appears that patrol boats and naval frigates, commanded by a three star general, and a refusal to allow refugees to settle here, have reduced the number of boats reaching Australia.

Why detain children if this policy is not aimed at deterring people smuggling, nor stopping the tragic drowning of asylum seekers at sea?

Here are some of the underpinning the recent inquiry. The latest figures from August are that Australia holds 647 children in closed detention, 500 on the mainland and 147 on Christmas Island, including 28 children with disabilities. A further 222 children are detained on Nauru. On average, children and their families have been held in closed detention camps for over a year. Children on Christmas Island have had virtually no access to school; that is, until the Government funded Catholic Education to provide a program a few weeks ago. No claim to refugee status has been assessed by the Government since taking office more than 13 months ago, denying a last vestige of respect and dignity to asylum seekers.

The *Medical Journal of Australia* reported that over 80 per cent of the 139 pediatricians responding to the survey believe that the mandatory detention of asylum seeker children amounts to "child abuse".

Australia signs the Marrakesh Treaty

The Australian Government signed in Geneva the *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled*. The treaty will give an estimated 285 million people with vision impairments around the world access to more books published in accessible formats including large print, braille or audio.

The treaty will allow exceptions to copyright law to enable organisations to produce and distribute books and other materials in formats that are accessible to people with visual impairment. The exceptions will only be used when books in accessible format are unavailable. Attorney General George Brandis said the Treaty was a key step towards ending the 'book drought' for people with a visual impairment.

The treaty maintains the integrity of copyright frameworks and aims to simplify and facilitate the cross-border exchange of accessible format literature.

To date, the treaty has over 60 signatories including the United States and United Kingdom. It will come into effect following the ratification of 20 countries. The Federal Government will work to bring forward the treaty for ratification through the Federal Parliament.

Human Rights

Translated material available to assist vulnerable women

Vulnerable women from a range of backgrounds will be able to access information regarding the Second Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* in their native language, with materials now available in 12 languages other than English.

"We know that different groups of women have diverse experiences of violence,"

"Women who come to Australia as migrants, refugees or international students can face unique challenges and so it is important that Government make resources available in a wide range of languages so that those at risk have the information they require."

Minister for Social Services Kevin Andrews said the Second Action Plan has a particular focus on women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

"It is vital that those from different backgrounds have easy access to material that helps them understand their rights in Australia.

Further details of the [Second Action Plan and translations](#) are available on the Department of Social Services website.

Education

Two bilateral education agreements with China

Education is currently Australia's third largest export. In 2014, Chinese students make up the largest number of international students represented in all education sectors. A growing number of Australian students are studying in China and Australia has more education links with China than any other country.

Minister Pyne signed a new mobility agreement which highlights the central role of China to the New Colombo Plan, the Australia-China Memorandum of Understanding on Student, Researcher and Academic Mobility. The memorandum will support the implementation of the New Colombo Plan in China from 2015 and facilitate greater mobility of students, researchers and academics between Australia and China.

He also renewed the long-standing Australia-China Arrangement on Higher Education Qualifications Recognition. The arrangement underpins the mobility of Chinese students to Australia by allowing Australian higher education qualifications to be recognised by Chinese institutions and employers.

He also said that the agreements "reflect the strong and long-standing education and research relationship between our two countries".

"China is one of Australia's most important economic and trading partners. So, it is important that our young people are familiar with China, its society, culture and language."

Agreement between University of Western Sydney and Beijing University of Chinese Medicine

Benefits to flow from the partnership include a new research-led Chinese medicine clinic in Sydney, better patient outcomes and the potential for Australia to tap into the traditional Chinese medicine market.

"BUCM is a world-leader in Chinese Medicine and UWS is the home of the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM). The three institutions already have a longstanding relationship in both research and education.

“The focus of the new agreement will be the development of an Australian–first, high quality Chinese medicine service in Sydney, which will have a close connection to both clinical and laboratory-based research.

“Australia is the only Western nation to have a unified national registration of Chinese medicine practitioners and strict regulation of medicines, which delivers safe healthcare to thousands of Australians every year.

Promoting cultural, educational and scientific links with Thailand

The Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI) announced support for fifteen innovative education, health, science, art and cultural projects.

Australia has a longstanding and close relationship with Thailand, built on partnerships in trade, investment, education and tourism. The ATI grants program will support activities to strengthen creative economy links, increase science initiatives and promote Australia as a vibrant and diverse country.

Projects to develop networks between schools demonstrate a strong commitment to education and training. The ATI will support a civics education project which link educational institutions and electoral commissions in Australia and Thailand and build Thai capacity to develop civics curricula.

Australian youth groups will travel to Thailand and present Australian dance and cultural heritage, while Thailand’s traditional arts, contemporary cultures, cuisine, and film will feature at Australian festivals and workshops.

Further information about the ATI is available at www.dfat.gov.au/ati.

Australia provides assistance to women and girls in Iraq

Today I announce that Australia will provide \$2 million in assistance to support the hundreds of thousands of women and girls affected by the ongoing violence in Iraq.

This is part of the Australian Government’s efforts to help Iraq protect its people from the terror and brutality of ISIL.

Women and girls are bearing the brunt of this conflict as ISIL targets women, children and minorities for sexual violence and expectant mothers are forced to flee their homes.

Australian funding will support the United Nations Population Fund to address the specific needs of displaced women and girls, as well as victims of gender-based violence.

It will also scale up delivery of reproductive health care, including obstetric services for around 250,000 pregnant women.

Australia has also provided around \$130 million in humanitarian support in response to the crisis in Syria, including \$20 million in funding to Lebanon and Jordan to support refugees fleeing across their borders.

Defat

New Social Security agreement with India

The Australian Government has signed a new social security agreement with the Indian Government which will make retirement easier for residents of both countries and help improve their retirement incomes.

“The Agreement will give former Australian residents now living in India the ability to claim the Australian Age Pension without having to return to Australia,” Minister for Social Services, Kevin Andrews said.

“It will also give former Indian residents living in Australia access to Indian retirement pensions.

“Businesses operating in Australia and India will benefit from the removal of the requirement for compulsory contributions to be paid into both countries' superannuation and pension insurance systems for temporarily seconded workers.

The Agreement with India is expected to come into effect from July 2015.

Recent Court Decisions

Migration Regulations 1994 - Specification of Arrangements for Work and Holiday Visa Applicants from Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay - IMMI 14/098

IMMI 14/098 Specifications as made

This instrument operates to specify the passport, specified address, foreign country and educational qualifications applicable to each country for an applicant to make a valid application.

Administered by: Immigration and Border Protection

Migration Regulations 1994 - Specification of Eligible Education Providers and Educational Business Partners - IMMI 14/075

IMMI 14/075 Specifications as made

This instrument operates to reflect modifications to the details of education providers participating in the streamlined visa processing arrangements including eligible education

providers and their educational business partners.

Administered by: Immigration and Border Protection

Migration Act 1958 - Determination of International Trade Obligations Relating to Labour Market Testing - IMMI 14/107

IMMI 14/107 Determinations/Other as made

This instrument determines Australia's international trade obligations under which it would be inconsistent for the approved sponsor to be required to satisfy the labour market testing condition for the nominated position.

Administered by: Immigration and Border Protection

A.P.B. Education

Specialist IELTS Test Training and Coaching

Passing an IELTS test is now an essential requirement for all applicant for General Skilled Migration, student visas, and for many employer sponsored applicants. Adrian Bitel provides individual lessons to assist applicants achieve proficiency to the required levels in:

- Reading
- Speaking
- Writing
- Listening

He gives comprehensive ONE to ONE Personalised Coaching in any or all of the above areas at very competitive rates.

Contact: Adrian Bitel on (02) 9286 8700 or Mobile: 0412 656 026

Contact us

Parish		Patience		Immigration	
Lawyers					
Level	1,	338		Pitt	Street
Sydney					NSW 2000
Australia					
Tel: +	61	2		9286	8700
Fax: +	61	2		9283	3323

Email: ppmail@ppilaw.com.au
www.ppilaw.com.au

