

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

In response to advocacy by Migration Alliance, DIAC has advised that "there is no intention of making MIA membership, or any other professional membership, a registration requirement".

Most in the profession would be aware that imposition of mandatory membership of the MIA, as a prerequisite for registration, has been a topic of concern within the migration advice profession since news (rumour) of a proposed imposition appears to have leaked out following a meeting of the MIA offices in May. Migration Alliance member, Susan Wareham, immediately communicated to the DIAC opposition to any such imposition on the profession.

In her letter of response to Susan, Paula Williams, the A/g Assistant Secretary, Migration Agents Taskforce, wrote that the Department is currently developing a range of legislative amendments in support of the establishment of the Office of MARA and to implement recommendations from the 2007 - 08 Review of the *Statutory Self-Regulation of the Migration Advice Profession* but that mandatory membership of MIA or any other organisation was not under consideration.

The Foundation Management Committee, on behalf of Migration Alliance members, thanks Susan for taking up this matter on behalf of the profession.

If you have any strategic thoughts or concerns relating to our profession please contact Migration Alliance Foundation Management Committee members Leonie Barber and Sheelagh Blanckenberg and the MA members online forum. Such matters will then be tabled for memmbers to discuss and action plans implemented wherever possible.

Uberrima fides – "in utmost good faith"

Document prepared by Leonie Barber MMA, Migration Alliance Foundation Management Committee