

### **Migration Alliance rejects MIA proposal**

The Migration Alliance rejects the initiative proposed by the Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) to permit Education Agents who are not Registered Migration Agents to join MIA.

The Migration Alliance is strongly opposed to the role of Education Agents in the provision of 'immigration assistance' contrary to the provisions of the Migration Act 1958 and does not seek to represent or act for persons who are not Registered Migration Agents.

"Formal recognition and incorporation of Education Agents by organisations purporting to represent persons in the Migration Advice Profession, in effect legitimises the conduct and "status" of Education Agents as persons authorised to provide "immigration assistance,"" said Christopher Levingston, Convenor, Migration Alliance.

"Registered Migration Agents operating under Australia's stringent migration regulations should not be confused with self appointed education agents and unregulated, rogue agents, many of whom operate offshore", said Mr Levingston.

"The Migration Alliance does not intend to extend membership to Education Agents as we are opposed to Education Agents who provide Immigration Assistance. Migration Alliance exists to promote the interests of registered Migration Agents," said Mr Levingston.

The Baird Review into the International Education sector identified the behaviour of Education Agents as inconsistent with the role of Registered Migrations Agents and recommended prohibiting the payment or any commission or inducement to anyone for securing the transfer of any currently studying onshore study, a primary function of Education Agents.

Australia's Registered Migration Agents are regulated by the OMARA (Office of Migration Agents Regulation Authority) an office within the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

"Australia's Registered Migration Agents form a professional, trained and highly regulated industry that does not want to be lumped in the same basket as Education agents".

The Migration Alliance is an industry body of Australia's registered migration agents whose membership is around 1000.

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