



The Migration Alliance rejects the Hon Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship criticism of Australia's Registered Migration Agents.

“Registered Migration Agents operating under Australia's stringent migration regulations should not be confused with self appointed student agents and unregulated, rogue agents who operate offshore”, said Christopher Levingston, Convenor, Migration Alliance.

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 have long called for the Minister to regulate the role of “student agents” and “offshore agents” to curb the exploitation of Australia's migration program and those that seek to use it.

Student Agents often enrol overseas students in courses that they have no interest in studying with a promise of permanent residency in Australia. Student agents take fees from Australia's colleges and the students themselves with promises of “PR”.

“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 student and offshore agents”.

The Migration Alliance supports many of the Minister's changes announced today in order to reduce the level of exploitation of the migration program however we do not support the application of changes retrospectively.

“To inform a skilled migrant applicant, who has met the visa requirements, paid the application fees and waited in the Department of Immigration's “processing queue” for up to two years that their application will not be processed as of today is unprecedented”, said Mr Livingston.

“This does nothing to improved Australia's international reputation and only engenders both fear and uncertainty in Australia's migration program”.

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

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