

Dear Hon. Member of Parliament Mr. Chris Evans,

I am writing this submission to draw your attention what went wrong for student community, especially for students of cookery of hairdressing.

The students who are doing above courses are not the biggest problem. The biggest problem is dodgy colleges in Australia. I would ask you to go into any private college in any major city; you will see what sort of QUALITY they got. I have taught in one of the college. This college was in Sydney city in an old building separated in two floors. Both floors were condensed, crowdie, smelly and no OH&S guidelines were there.

First day, the students had their induction sitting in hall way of college hitting each other in a confined space. Principal of that college gave students a reality check on their first day of college. All he talked about being on time and follow visa rules. He didn't say anything about studies or quality of services they are going to deliver after charging them for \$24000 for Diploma. Guess what? That was my first day in college as well and after couple of days we started with OH&S module, which never existed in that college.

As I was a trainer, students cried to me everyday thinking about their future? When they left their countries, they knew that they are paying \$24000 for two years and they are going to get excellent quality education. There were no resources in college, no library, and no facilities whatsoever.

I find out that if that college has given students what they needed, I am sure at least 70% of them would have been working in that professional and there would have been adequate supply of demand. Believe me international students do wish to have career in what they study, but due to dodgy education of these colleges, they get nowhere. Whose fault is this? Not the student. For two years, they were shows that this college is only to get permanent residency not for education. They were not trained properly. Even trainers like us, our hands were tight because of lack of resources.

Student tried to complain about things, but they were threatened of consequences about their visa being rejected. I had students from all backgrounds and they were all feeling the same.

There was no support from Govt, no support from college, no support from welfare agencies. I and other teachers tried our best to engage them in studies and telling them how it could change your future. After few months, students stopped attending classes, and they will only tell teachers that they are coming to college only due to teachers and they hate this college.

I would recommend instead of taking any action of students who have already lived here for years and waiting for their residency, you should get hard on all of these dodgy colleges.

I can give you a good example. An international student who studies Cookery in TAFE becomes a cook but a student who studies cookery in Private College end up doing

something else. It is still an international student, but it is the quality of education and lack of support. In TAFE, they get good study atmosphere and they get motivated from staff and co-students, but in Private colleges, they can't even make a complaint.

You should put a CAP on these colleges. I know education department is going to edit by end of this years, but that's not good enough. Reduce their seats. If a hospitality college have 500 seats, reduce it to 50, so there will be only 50 cookery students in that college, not 500 and I am sure they will be able to get quality education and education providers will be working in providing services in order to get more seats. PUT A CAP ON COLLEGES AND COLLEGE SEATS.

I know students who are here for 5-6 years, spent their youth in here trying to make life in Australia. Now they settled in jobs and just waiting for permanent residency. If you tell them your visa application is going to be terminated, you can't imagine what will happen to them. Being from Welfare background, I can self possibilities of students going illegal in Australia or even self harm. If some student came here at the age of 21, did cookery, now working as cook and he is not 25 years old waiting for his residency, going back is not an option for that student. Because that student already spent his youth working hard in Australia and now he would like to go on with his life, not backwards. Please help these students in achieving their goals instead of kicking them out.

You can start a program with the help of Community Organisation to help these students getting jobs in their respective field. Start a program for international students similar to apprenticeship. Make working in their field compulsory for 2 years, 3 years, doesn't matter. Give them an opportunity to proof themselves and work hard in their field. Kicking them out wouldn't be an option.

You can implement for future students, because they can then decide whether they should come to Australia or not, but not with past or present students.

I hope my submission does make some sense. We need to cure the root of problem, not to cut the tree. The root problem is dodgy education, not students.

Kinds Regards