

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

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## RECENT NEWS STORIES



### Recent Newspaper Story Concerning International Students

16<sup>th</sup> August 2008

#### Editorial

No surprise that **Sydney International College of Business (SICB)** is in the news again and also no surprise it has been forced to close. For the students who had bad experiences in that college (and there were many) I am sure they will feel that justice has prevailed. The school deserved to be closed earlier but It was a good move that the government authorities let the existing students complete their qualifications. The reality was that there was no place for all the students to go if the SICB doors had been closed months ago.

I am still getting a few reports about other colleges which seem to be ill treating their students. After the Global College and SICB meltdowns as examples I thought school managers would have realized by now that eventually the negative stories will come to light and when they do, we have seen the results.

Two colleges have come to my attention recently where students just go there and watch TV and no purposeful teaching takes place.

More on that later.....

It was a surprise to find **Australian Catholic University** with an adverse story.

The ACU story is a reminder to students that if the standard of teaching or curriculum is not up to scratch then a professional body responsible for registration purposes (in this case for Nurses) is well within their rights to deny registration for a particular occupation.

The issue for international students studying Nursing, is that if you don't get state registration (any state) then you don't pass the skill assessment process as a Nurse. All those international students studying nursing at ACU should look into this issue with the university ASAP to ensure the money they are paying for is not going to be useless.

# Nursing graduates stuck in limbo

Natasha Wallace Health Reporter

August 9, 2008

Sydney Morning Herald

AT LEAST 50 nursing graduates from the Australian Catholic University cannot be registered even though they completed a degree that cost \$15,000.

A stoush over qualification standards has erupted between the Department of Health and the university, leaving the graduates in limbo.

The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Greg Craven, denied the problem had anything to do with changes to the curriculum of the bachelor of nursing degree, which subsequently failed to gain recognition from the registration authority, the Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW.

Professor Craven blamed a decision taken by the board last year to assume responsibility for whether students were entitled to credit points for previous learning. "It's not a question of the content of the degree or the adequacy of the degree - that is conceded. It's simply a question of granting credit," he said.

Many students who had completed their degree or were midway through had been caught out.

Professor Craven said students would not have to pay for further courses to meet registration requirements. He said of the 115 students in last year's cohort, 50 had their registration rejected, 25 had been registered and he was uncertain about the remainder.

The general secretary of the NSW Nurses' Association, Brett Holmes, said the university "had breached the approved curriculum" and called for any affected students to be refunded.

The executive director of the nurses' board, Michael Cleary, said he was not permitted to discuss the problem. In an emailed statement he said the board had worked with all universities to ensure graduates completed courses enabling them to register.

Link: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/nursing-graduates-stuck-in-limbo/2008/08/08/1218139081298.html>

# Cookery college feels heat

Harriet Alexander Higher Education Reporter

August 11, 2008

Sydney Morning Herald

A SYDNEY college specialising in courses that help international students get residency visas has been ordered to close after state authorities discovered it was providing overcrowded cookery classes in illegal kitchens.

The Sydney International College of Business, which charges up to \$14,000 for its hospitality courses, must shut its doors on its remaining students by September 5, the Administrative Decisions Tribunal ordered last week.

An audit of the college found it was teaching 797 students in a kitchen meant to cater for only 20 students at a time.

Across all courses, just 10 teachers were training 848 students.

The college also used "demonstration kitchens" that did not have adequate ventilation for practical classes or comply with city council health and safety regulations, the Vocational Education Training Accreditation Board found.

More than 1000 students did not have access to adequate kitchens for 11 months.

"In effect the [college] has defaulted on providing the courses that the hospitality students purchased," the board advised in February, explaining why its registration had been suspended.

The college, which is also being investigated by the Immigration Department, opened in 1995, originally catering to business students. But it changed its focus to cookery and hairdressing after the Federal Government gave those courses visa preference to fill a workforce shortage.

The NSW Government suspended the college's registration last year, prompting it to appeal through the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

But the tribunal affirmed the board's decision, saying: "It can fairly be inferred that the college was well in excess of the [students to staff] ratios now accepted as reasonable over the period 2005 to 2007.

"Throughout this period it operated according to standards that were well below those expected of institutions of its kind. There is a real issue as to the confidence which can now be placed in it to adhere to appropriate standards."

No senior manager or college administrator gave evidence to the hearing. The principal, Hari Mundru, did not return the *Herald's* calls, while staff at the Sydney campus said nobody had told them of the decision.

The NSW Government said the state's income from international students was \$4.72 billion last year and it had to ensure courses were of the highest quality.

In April, 350 students remained at the college. David Collins, the general manager of State Training Services, said the accreditation board would work with the Federal Government and the training industry to support them.

Link: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/cookery-college-feels-heat/2008/08/10/1218306664974.html>

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