

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

(Volume 105)

TODAY'S NEWS STORIES



## Today's Newspaper Story Concerning International Students

29<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Dear Students

Welcome to the latest edition of IMMIGRATION NEWS. Today's articles come from the Sydney Morning Herald. The article is also repeated in The Age.

Feel free to e-mail this newsletter to any of your friends.

### Editorial

The temptation is always there to take illegal short cuts in order to gain residency in Australia. Students who decide to take such a path risk their future of a life in Australia. Most do not realise that giving false documentation to DIAC can attract a 10 year jail term under the Migration Act.

Those individuals who provide the mechanisms to organise false documentation for students do not explain the possible consequences. For years they have escaped unscathed with the money they skim from students. Perhaps the tables are beginning to turn against them. Sadly DIAC has focused its attention to this problem about 10 years too late, but perhaps too late is better than never.

Remember next time when someone offers you a quick fix solution for a few thousand dollars, do not be tempted.

## **Cash-for-certificates companies raided**

Sydney Morning Herald  
Chris Johnston  
December 29, 2008

**IN WHAT could be one of the largest-ever migration scams involving overseas**

**students, nine businesses were raided in connection with allegations that they charged thousands of dollars for fake certificates and work references.**

**In a series of raids on city and suburban addresses just before Christmas, nine Melbourne businesses - including a private training college, a curry restaurant, graphic design studios and business and education consultants - were raided by federal immigration officers and the Australian Federal Police.**

**Migration sources said it was believed similar scams were operating in other capital cities.**

**A spokesman for the Department of Immigration said: "It is alleged that for a fee those involved have been providing clients with fraudulent education qualifications and bogus work references to assist them in obtaining Australian permanent residence through the skilled migration program."**

**Several people are likely to be charged with migration fraud offences following a year-long investigation. The main office raided was registered as a business consultancy owned by Gary Zhou and Jane Zhao. It was allegedly operating as an unregistered migration agency.**

**Immigration sources said the company allegedly co-ordinated a scam believed to involve hundreds of international students, mainly from China and India.**

**Among the "large volume" of evidence seized were laptops and desktop computers.**

**It will be alleged that students were able to buy fake education results for courses at a private training college.**

**Students are also alleged to have bought fake work experience documents from an Indian restaurant in the city and from graphic design and printing studios in North Melbourne and Oakleigh South.**

**The students did not attend the college or the workplaces.**

**Immigration sources said students caught in the scams had already paid tuition fees of up to \$20,000 before paying between \$7000 and \$20,000 extra for bogus documents.**

**An education agency in Caulfield was also raided. Financial records of a deregistered company previously owned by Mr Zhou were also seized.**

**International students seeking permanent residency must provide proof of their education and vocational work experience.**

**A spokesman for the Minister of Immigration, Chris Evans, said last night the**

raids were an indication that migration fraud against international students "would not be tolerated".

Link: [www.smh.com.au/news/national/cashforcertificates-companies-raided/2008/12/28/1230399045722.html](http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/cashforcertificates-companies-raided/2008/12/28/1230399045722.html)

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Kind regards

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