

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

Skilled Migration Changes Hurting Australian Education Industry

In a major overhaul of the Skilled Migration Program's points test, announced by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, commencing 1 July 2011, the key winners from the reform will be those with a tertiary education from overseas institutions and people with longer periods of employment experience.

According to Peter Kuek-Kong Lee, Director of Migration Services at **aml | Australian Migration Lawyers**, "the key loser is the Australian education sector."

"The advantage of having an Australian education has eroded as overseas degrees are given the same advantage in the points test where previously these points were only allocated to people who studied in Australia," Mr Lee continued.

To succeed in the revamped General Skills Migration program, applicants have to be moderately young, highly educated with excellent English language skills, have a profession or trade that is recognised and valued in Australia, and have considerable employment experience in their industry.

He went on to reiterate that these reforms will continue to diminish the Australian education sector as a key export industry because the migration incentives given to international students previously in the points test will no longer be available.

According to Mr Lee, the bias towards higher English language competency is a trend that can also be seen in other recent migration changes.

Although it is inherently discriminatory, Mr Lee believes the government will continue this trend in its ongoing reform in other migration programs.

While bonus points like community language skills, regional studies and partner skills continue to be given, the new points test has now levelled the playing field where overseas qualifications and employment experience are provided recognition not previously given.

aml has successfully helped people of all ages and backgrounds to migrate to Australia and is skilled and knowledgeable in every aspect of Australian migration.

aml's longstanding relationships with reputable companies and businesses, including relocation experts, banks, foreign exchange dealers, universities, accountants, real estate and business brokers, make them the first choice to assist you through the entire migration process.

If you are interested in finding out more about these reforms or **aml**, or wish to talk to Peter Kuek-Kong Lee, contact the team anytime and visit the website www.migrationlawyers.com.au or call us on 07 3229 6099 (Brisbane) or 07 5597 8888 (Gold Coast).

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