



Our newsletter this month is jam-packed with the latest migration and AMVL news and updates. With several changes to Australia's visa program, including student and employer sponsored visas, a wrap-up of our Employment Network team's Tour of Ireland and some news about Movember, there's something in here for everyone. Enjoy!

Knight Review: Stage 1

In September this year, the Australian Government announced that it supported all 41 recommendations made by the Hon Michael Knight AO in his Strategic Review of the Student Visa Program. These recommendations aim to enhance the quality, integrity and competitiveness of Australia's international education sector.



The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has since announced that Stage 1 implementation of the Knight Review changes to Australia's Student Visa Program commenced on 5 November, 2011. The changes implemented are as follows;

- Reducing the financial requirements for higher risk Assessment Level 3 and Assessment Level 4 applicants
- The Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement
- More flexible arrangements for English language study
- Increasing the visa period of all new Postgraduate Research (subclass 574) visa grants by six months
- Allowing prepaid fees for formal homestay arrangements through education providers to be included in the financial requirements assessment for a student visa
- Stopping the department's Pre-Visa Assessment (PVA) policy

For an extended explanation of these changes, click [here](#) to read our overview on the AMVL website. To submit an enquiry about how to extend your stay in Australia beyond your visa period, email student@australianmigrations.com to contact our Recent Graduates team.

Subclass 457 visa changes

Employers may now apply for Sponsorship Accreditation, a scheme introduced by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) on 7 November this year. By successfully applying for accreditation, employers will qualify for priority processing for all subclass 457 nominations and visa applications.

To qualify for Accredited Status, sponsors will have to demonstrate several characteristics in addition to the standard sponsorship requirements at the time of application. To see a list of these characteristics, click [here](#).

In essence, what these changes mean for potential employees of subclass 457 sponsors is faster, priority processing of all subclass 457 nominations and visa applications with their employer having been put in to a priority queue for all future visa applications. The department have stated that they aim is to see 457 visas processed within 10 days.

If you're interested in coming to live and work in Australia and are interested in being sponsored by an employer in our AMVL Employment Network, email jobs@australianmigrations.com with an up-to-date copy of your CV/resume. We have hundreds of jobs available, particularly for agricultural mechanics, diesel fitters, welders, panel beaters, electricians, motor mechanics, engineers, metal fabricators, CAD designers, hydraulic fitters and telecommunications linesmen. Alternatively, click [here](#) to fill out an Employment Network registration form.

Additional visa changes

From 5 November 2011, the department will accept English language test results from the following alternative tests to the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for Student visa purposes taken in any country:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT)
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) test (also known as Certificate in Advanced English)

For more details, click [here](#).

Irish Seminar Series: wrap-up

With our whirlwind Seminar Series now behind us (until next time), the AMVL Employment Network team have returned from Ireland after experiencing great success in showcasing several hundred Australian jobs to skilled Irish workers. Firstly, the team attended the Dublin Working Abroad Expo as an exhibitor. The expo was tremendously successful with approximately 5,000 people walking through the doors each day to seize the many opportunities being shared around for people to live and work abroad. Here we registered hundreds of new employee members, all of whom were very interested in growing list of jobs in Australia that we have through our employer members.



After the expo Philip, John and the team then hit the road headed for Clane, Galway and Waterford to conduct our series of 'Jobs in Australia' seminars, once again all very successful with a significant number of Irish folk in attendance to learn more about living and working in Australia.

Why Ireland? Part of our focus on Irish trades and professionals comes from our long association with the country. Having an operational base there means that we have the resources on the ground to be able to liaise with people looking to migrate to Australia. Obviously the economic situation there also means that many skilled people are looking for employment opportunities, with local unemployment running at over 14%. The other advantages of Ireland as a source of skilled workers includes the fact that they speak English, and their trades education is very good and well regulated. But perhaps most importantly, as we found out on the ground, many skilled Irish workers are anxious for a new start, and Australia is a very attractive destination.

To make enquiries to the AMVL Employment Network, email jobs@australianmigrations.com.

AMVL does Movember

Every year, at about this time exactly, cities and towns in Australia and around the world become noticeably more populated by men with moustaches, or men who are participating in Movember. The aim of which is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and depression in men.

This year, AMVL has banded together and formed a team of "mo bros" in support of this fantastic cause. While most of the guys wait a while longer to determine the style of their moustaches, Australian Migrations team leader Philip has already auctioned off the right to choose a style to the highest bidder. At \$105 (which was donated to Movember), the winning mo-style is "Merv Hughes".



(Some of the Australian Migrations Movember Team)

If you would like to track the progress of the Australian Migrations Movember team, or make a donation, click [here](#) to visit the team's mo-space.