



For immediate release

Australian Government suspends 200 agents from lodging online student visa applications

~AAERI supports Australian Government's action against erring agents~

New Delhi, September 18, 2009: Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI) has welcomed the decision by Australian Government of suspending almost 200 agents operating in a number of countries from lodging online student visa applications because of evidence of fraud or poor approval rates.

To regain their access to the online system, agents will need to 'show cause' for their behavior. Access arrangements are being reviewed to ensure that online agents meet high standards of performance.

AAERI is one of its kind self regulatory bodies of education agents in the world. In fact, its unique business model is now being replicated by other countries. The establishment of AAERI is an initiative of Australian Education International (AEI), the international arm of Australia's education department.

Commenting on this, **Mr. Gulshan Kumar Pathania, President, AAERI** said, "We have been lobbying with the Australian Government to take action against the fraudulent agents in India, as well as to keep a check on the conduct of onshore agents in Australia and also their sub-agents in India. AAERI is working very closely with Indian and Australian government to weed out any issues that concern the security of Indian students in Australia. "

He further adds, "We, at AAERI, believe that the work in weeding out the rot has just started and there is need for continuing vigilance. AAERI has been working towards reinforcing Australia's standing as a high quality education destination for all genuine students".

Further, AAERI had been holding talks with the Australian Government on the need for strengthening student visa checks to stamp out fraud and ensure students have the financial capacity to live and study in Australia.

AAERI is working in close association with the Australian government and education providers in Australia to ensure that Australia remains a high quality education destination.

About AAERI:

The Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI) is an independent organization registered under the Societies Registration Act of India, which was formed in October 1996 to assure the integrity and credibility of agents who are recruiting students on behalf of Australian education and training institutions. All prospective students interested in utilizing the services of an education agent are encouraged to utilize the services of an AAERI member because AAERI members abide by a code of ethical practices. AAERI members have agreed to serve prospective students honestly and fairly, provide them with accurate and unbiased information and to refer students to other agents if appropriate. Also, AAERI members agree to charge only the fee prescribed by AAERI, which is currently no more than Rs 10,000/-

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