



MIGRATION INSTITUTE
— OF AUSTRALIA —

MEDIA RELEASE

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MIGRATION APPLICANTS – OUT OF LIMBO AND GETTING A ‘FAIR GO’

In December 2007, when State and Territory authorities changed their minds about allowing would-be migrants to invest \$100,000 in securities that would gain them visa application credits, some 1,500 applicants were left stranded in the system.

But, today they were offered renewed hope when the South Australian government reinstated the investment scheme. As a result, the Department of Immigration will accept related applications.

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) said that South Australia’s decision to again provide an avenue for investment would offer belated relief to applicants who were adversely affected when the scheme was scuttled some 13 months ago.

“This has been a most unfortunate situation for a great many applicants who have been unable to plan for their future, and who had organised their, or their family’s, finances to make the investment, said Maurene Horder, CEO of MIA.

“Many of these people had already spent considerable amounts of money paying for their education in Australia.

“When the State and Territory authorities withdrew from the scheme in December 2007, around 1,500 were left in limbo, waiting for their visa applications to be processed. They needed the five points to be granted their Skilled Migration visas, but had nowhere to invest the money.

“The Migration Institute has shared the frustration of these people and used our best endeavours to hammer home to the Department the unreasonableness and unfairness of leaving people in this unsatisfactory situation.

“We are pleased it is finally resolved.”

Ms Horder added that many applicants would be forced to cop additional costs to undergo another round of health and police checks, and possibly new English tests.



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“Through no fault of their own, hapless visa applicants have been victims of slow and lumbering bureaucratic decision-making.”

- **FACT FILE:**
 - State and Territory authorities withdrew from the \$100,000 designated investment scheme in December 2007.
- On 29 January 2009 the South Australia Government confirmed the re-introduction of the \$100,000 designated investment scheme offering investment bonds that satisfy Department of Immigration and Citizenship requirements.
- This decision applies to General Skilled Migration applications made before 1 September 2007.
- Prior to 1 September 2007, applicants for General Skilled Migration (which has a Point Test), were able to claim five points by investing \$100,000 for 12 months in designated securities offered by some State and Territory treasury authorities.
- Applicants will now be able to make the designated investment and claim their five points.
- If all other requirements have been met, they will then be eligible for the grant of their Skilled Migration visa.