



**MIGRATION INSTITUTE
— OF AUSTRALIA —**

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STRENGTHEN TRAINING FOR SKILLED TRADE MIGRANTS

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) disputes that increases in numbers of poorly trained cooks hoping for permanent residency is partly a product of migration agents, as asserted by a Monash University report *The Cooking-Immigration Nexus* by Bob Birrell, Ernest Healy and Bob Kinnaird.

Migration agents assist people negotiate the complex requirements of obtaining permanent residency. They are bound by a professional code of ethics and must be registered to provide migration advice.

The MIA agrees with the report's authors that unregistered off-shore recruiters and education agents, as well as Australian-based private education providers, need to be more strictly governed to increase the standards of training in the trades.

CEO Maurene Horder says, "Other "agents" who are driven by getting commissions for placing people in training, regardless of the outcomes, are the ones governments should be concerned about."

The focus should be on the tightening of training standards, stronger registration requirements of education providers and stronger accreditation systems enforced by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The report fails to recognise the importance of overseas students and skilled migrants to the Australian economy. An Access Economics Report released today found the export education's industry total contribution to the economy was more than \$26 billion.

The catering industry maintains there is a skills shortage, particularly in regional areas, and a skilled migration program goes some way towards meeting demand. Employers of skilled migrants are bound by the same workplace awards and conditions that other Australian employees are entitled to. Any concerns that an employer is taking advantage of overseas workers should be directed towards the Workplace Ombudsman.

For further information contact -

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About MIA - *The Migration Institute of Australia is the professional association for Australian migration service providers worldwide. It represents almost 2,000 registered migration agents who provide services to families, businesses and industries.*