



Associate Fellow: 2012 Roll Out

At the September MIA Board meeting, Directors approved the final timetable for implementation of the MIA's Tiered Membership process, first announced in *Institute News Issue Seven* and expanded upon in *Issue Nine*.

The Institute has opened expressions of interest in applying for admission to the Associate Fellow (AFMIA) category of membership. Applications will open soon.

This new scheme is designed to recognise Member Agents' experience, good standing and professional ethics, enabling a career progression to be recognised by consumers in order to enhance confidence in the profession.

Associate Fellow applicants must have at least five years registration, including MIA membership for a minimum of one year at the time of application, and for a minimum of two years at the time Associate Fellowship is awarded. Applicants will also need to have completed approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or other professional activities above and beyond the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) minimum, and to provide a letter of reference from an MIA Member of ten years standing.

Applicants must also pass an Assessment of Competency, achievable either through the completion of a Master of Migration Law and Practice degree or by undertaking the MIA's new Applied Immigration Assessment and Practice Management course, to be taught by a panel of Barrister, Solicitor and Accredited Specialist Members. This course will run in February or March 2012 in Sydney and Melbourne and will be worth 10 CPD points.

Following the rollout of the Associate Fellow process, Member Agents of ten years' standing will have the opportunity to be assessed for admission to the Fellow category of membership, along similar lines.

New MIA Board Appointed

The MIA Board of Directors, including five new State Branch Presidents elected in August (see page 2 for details), met before the Migration 2011 Conference in September on the Gold Coast and elected new office bearers, as follows:

- President: Independent Director Ainslie van Onselen
- Vice President: NSW/ACT President Angela Chan
- Treasurer: WA President Jacqui Ure

The Board is comprised of the above office bearers and QLD/NT President, Stan Shneider, SA President Mark Glazbrook, VIC/TAS President Michael Walker and returning Member Director, Katie Malyon.

President Ainslie van Onselen has been the Board's Independent Director since February 2011 and will hold the position of National President until the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Ms van Onselen is a Senior Lecturer at the Edith Cowen University (ECU) School of Law and Justice and is admitted to practice law in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the High Court of Australia and the Federal Courts of Australia. She's previous worked for Atanaskovic Hartnell



in Sydney and Clayton Utz in Perth and as a Board Member for the WA Legal Practice Board, Barking Gecko Theatre Group and the Resource Unfit for Children with Special Needs.

As President, she will bring great corporate governance experience and expertise to the Board.

MIA Independent Director Ainslie van Onselen addresses the membership at the Migration 2011 Conference following her appointment as Institute President as immediate past President Sharon Harris looks on after introducing her.



Newsletter for the Migration Institute of Australia – Highlights

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MIA State Branch Election Results

The Institute ran State Branch elections throughout August of this year, utilising for the first time an innovative online ballot system to tally the votes for the 49 candidates who presented for the elections.

Following changes to the MIA's Constitution instituted by the immediate past Board of Directors, State Branch Committees are now composed of Members elected to the following formalised positions: One State President; Two Commercial Members; One Commercial Organisation Member; One Non Commercial Member; and One Member with a Legal Practising Certificate.

The five Branch Committees have been formed and are under way, and will serve for a two year period. As well as the Secretaries appointed at the Branch Committees' first meetings, the Committees can also induct a Student Member as well as qualified financial Members to fill any vacancies.

Members elected to the position of State President also serve as Directors on the MIA Board, alongside appointed Member Director Katie Malyon and Independent Director Ainslie van Onselen.

A full list of Branch Committee office bearers is available on the MIA website.

Migration Australia Launch

In September, the Institute officially launched its new biannual journal, *Migration Australia*, copies of which are now available free of charge through the MIA Shop.

A mix of academic rigour, peer reviewed articles and magazine style features, analysis and reviews, *Migration Australia* intends to advance discussion across a wide variety of migration related issues. It was launched by Professor Andrew Markus of the Scanlon Foundation and Monash University, who made special note of the publication's unique structure and style, singling out Angela Chan's opening salvo, *Australia: The Lucky Country or the Racist Country?*, as a worthy and "challenging" highlight.

The journal marks a major step into publishing for the Institute as it consolidates its position as a leading voice in Australian immigration.

This first volume contains thought provoking academic articles from such migration luminaries as Professors Penelope Mathew, Graeme Hugo and Verena Marshall and academics Mick Keegan and Nam Nguyen, alongside contributions by highly regarded Members like Philip Duncan, Kerry Murphy and Nick Poynder.

The Institute welcomes offers of articles on any topics relating to Australia migration for future editions, and is also seeking interest from qualified people who wish to join *Migration Australia's* editorial advisory committee.



Professor Andrew Markus launched the MIA's journal, *Migration Australia* in September.

Recent Submissions to Government

The MIA has been an active participant over the past few months in Australian Government reviews and inquiries, making submissions to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), the Federal Parliament and the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), as well as maintaining its engagement efforts with these and other governmental bodies.

- On 12 August, the Institute made a submission to the Parliament's Joint Select Committee Inquiry into the Immigration Detention Network questioning the efficacy of immigration detention for asylum seekers arriving by boat and arguing that the practice of long term mandatory detention is counterproductive, uncompassionate and needlessly expensive.
- On 16 September, the MIA responded to the DIAC Discussion Paper *Review of the permanent Employer Sponsored visa categories: Employer Nomination Scheme, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, Labour Agreement*, largely supporting those programs and proposing simple changes to enhance their effectiveness, efficacy and overall intelligibility.
- On 7 October, the MIA made a tailored and limited submission to the ALRC *Family Violence – Commonwealth Laws Discussion Paper*, which surveys the treatment of family and domestic violence across all Commonwealth laws. The Institute submission took pains to address only that legislation directly impacting upon immigration law, and endorsed and supported proposals to expand access for certain visa Subclass holders to the family violence exception contained in the *Migration Regulations 1994*.

Read all Institute submissions to Government on the MIA website.

Member Financial Health Survey

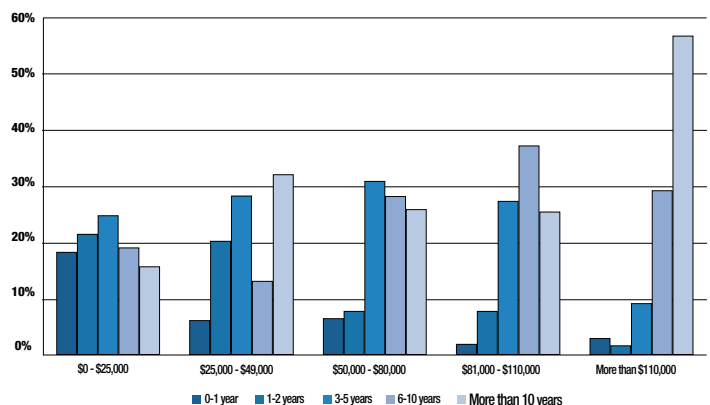
The 2011 MIA Member Survey conducted earlier this year demonstrated a relative strengthening of Member Agents' financial health compared year on year with the 2010 Survey.

The memberships' earnings can be broken into broad quartiles, as seen in the graph below.

The greatest indicator of RMA financial health is years of professional experience. Generally, the longer an agent has been in the profession, the greater his or her earning power. As seen in the accompanying graph, the majority of Members earning more than \$110,000 a year are agents of at least 10 years standing.

This indicates that, if agents are able to withstand the difficult first few years of registration, they are able to translate that professional experience into significantly increased earning power.

Member Salary Brackets by Professional Experience



A full MIA Members Survey report is available on myMIA.

International Education Outreach

In July, the MIA attended the Building an International Education Strategy Conference in Melbourne, with CEO Maurene Horder participating in the panel discussion *Positioning Australia on the world class stage: How to ensure Australia emerges as a global leader*. Featuring presentations from many education providers, regulators and governmental bodies, the Conference was an opportunity to meet with the major players in the Australian higher education and to expand upon the Institute's outreach to the international education market, particularly its efforts to provide the benefits of professional association for Education Agents servicing the Australian sector.

The Institute exhibited at the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) 2011 National Conference in Brisbane in August. ACPET represents some of the largest and most influential international education providers in Australia, and this Conference allowed the MIA to reintroduce itself to this important set of stakeholders as the representative body for qualified Education Agents as well as Registered Migration Agents (RMAs).

Adelaide hosted the English Australia Conference 2011 in September, at which the MIA made a presentation directly to providers within the English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector on its Education Agent offerings and recent changes and updates to the *Education Services for Overseas Student (ESOS) Act* that impact upon the agent / provider relationship.

Unlike other types of education providers in Australia, such as universities, private colleges and Training and Further Education (TAFE) institutions, ELICOS providers administer exclusively to international students. English Australia, the industry body for the sector, is thus an important and collaborative partner of the MIA.

The MIA attended and participated in a Korea Education Roundtable in October, put on by the Australia Korea Business Council (AKBC) and Roxby Media in October. Korea is a reliable and growing source country for international students in Australia, sending more students here than nearly any other country. The AKBC is an important partner to Government and industry in a variety of economic sectors, and this roundtable was joined by representatives from several educational institutions and industry bodies.

The Institute Honours Achievement

In September, the MIA hosted its premier social event of the year, the Annual Awards Night and Dinner. An opportunity for the profession to recognise excellence in immigration, both within and outside of its ranks, the Awards bring together dignitaries, special guests and MIA office bearers, and are open to all Members.

This year's event was a great success, with the Institute adding seven new and extremely worthy names to its Honours List.

Brian Jones and Stephen Sinclair were dual awardees of the Deidre Sheekey Award for "significant and sustained service to Members". Both former National Presidents and outgoing State Presidents from South Australia and Western Australia, respectively, they are much admired and tireless advocates of their memberships and credits to the Institute.

A solicitor, lecturer, commentator and teacher, Kerry Murphy is the 2011 recipient of the Henry Giblett Award for "outstanding contribution in the area of CPD or education", recognising his longstanding and well respected role in the provision of high level MIA and Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC) courses.

Victorian Member Jane Elliot was awarded the 2011 MIA Service Award for her unflinching commitment to the mentoring, professional education and support of her fellow Member Agents, and her indispensable role in editing the *Migration Agents Reference Manual*.

The MIA's highest external honour, the Distinguished Service to Australian Immigration Award, went this year to Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA) Chair Pino Migliorino, both for his leadership of that essential organisation and in recognition of the elevation of multiculturalism in 2011 within both Government and civil society.

This year's Outstanding Coverage of Migration in the Media Award was conferred on the directors, producers and journalists of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), who led the way on migration and refugee issues through unbiased coverage and outstanding programming, including the world first *Go Back to Where You Came From* reality program and the hallmark *Immigration Nation* documentary.

Finally, in a 2011 first, the Institute awarded its new Student of the Year honour to the University of Sydney's double first class Honours graduate and PhD candidate, Daniel Ghezelbash, and active researcher with Profession Mary Crock and future migration agent whose pro bono work with refugee children has earned him many admirers.

See all past awardees on the MIA's online Honours List.



Gold Coast City Councillor Susie Douglas presented Daniel Ghezelbash the new in 2011 Student of the Year award at the MIA's Annual Awards Night and Dinner.

2012 Migration Professionals Diary

The 2012 Migration Professionals Diary, a must have for any agent, is now available in the MIA Online Shop at the Member price of only \$15.

Spiral bound and week to a view, the Diary includes Member benefits and resources, useful contact details and other quick reference guides.



Tips on Moving to Australia

We all know that carrying a sandwich off the aircraft, or even a piece of fruit to another part of the same state, has consequences under Australia's strict quarantine regulations.

This responsible attitude toward contamination is a good thing, particularly regarding dangers to the food chain upon which the economy relies. When thinking about prohibited items, however, it's easy to dwell on the obvious – such as explosives, radioactive materials, poisons and some drugs – and overlook the fact that the diseases spread from foodstuffs like dairy and egg products, seeds, nuts and fruit, can be just as deadly.

Suspect jewellery and souvenirs, including those made of, or containing shells, skins, furs, straw, bamboo, cones and flowers, amongst many other materials, are subject to rigorous examination and are likely to be destroyed. These seemingly innocuous items can cause disruption to the customs and quarantine clearance processes, especially if carried within household effects shipments.

Anglo Pacific's highly trained estimators not only carry out a volume assessment that allows for a highly competitive "door to door" cost for the export packing and safe transportation of the household contents to clients' new homes in Australia, but are also able to advise on prohibited or restricted items and the specialised cleaning of gardening equipment, vacuum cleaners and other specific items.



Motor vehicles can be subject to additional steam cleaning requirements as instructed by the quarantine service, once they have landed in Australia.

Contact Anglo Pacific via the Sponsors page on the MIA website.

Migration 2011 Conference

The MIA was pleased to host a record number of delegates at the Migration 2011 Conference in Surfers Paradise, Queensland, on the 16 and 17 September in what was a very successful event for both delegates and presenters.

Over two days, attendees heard from more than 30 speakers from Government, academia and industry on a diversity of topics, participated in roundtable workshops and panel discussions, and enjoyed a wide ranging social program.

Queensland MP and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Premier on the Gold Coast Peta-Kaye Croft officially opened the Conference, stressing the importance of migration to her state, and DIAC Deputy Secretary Peter Vardos delivered a key Conference address, "Transformation: Two Years Later". Mr Vardos also passed on the following message from the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen:

Registered Migration Agents play a valuable role in the effective administration of the immigration system. When migration agents assist clients, particularly through the provision of complete, well constructed and appropriate visa applications, the client, the Department and the broader Australian economy and community benefit. [DIAC has] a strong and positive relationship with the MIA and I'm sure we will continue to work well together.



DIAC Deputy Secretary for Client Services Group, Peter Vardos, delivered the Opening Address of the Migration 2011 Conference

The Conference was the largest ever staged by the Institute, with a very high participation level from DIAC as well as from the MIA's corporate partners supporting Members.

English Language Working Group

Following consultations with members and meetings with the Office of the MARA CEO Christine Sykes, the Institute has formed a Working Group dedicated to the subject of English language requirements for repeat registration with the MARA and will make submissions to the regulator and the Minister for Immigration on the membership's behalf.

Members interested in the Working Group's activities should contact the Institute for further information.

Annual Report Out Now

The 2010-2011 MIA Annual Report is available now, with a printed edition included in this mail out and a soft copy available for download on the Institute's website. Covering all MIA activities and endeavours over the past financial year, the Annual Report is a comprehensive look at both what the Institute has been doing and its future directions.



Practice Ready Program Update

The MARA moved last year to introduce a new, mandatory Practice Ready Program (PRP), designed to allow first year RMA's practical grounding in and knowledge of migration law.

The Program is an interactive, small class size course dedicated to imparting relevant skills and knowledge, and is mandatory for all agents registered after 1 September 2011. Exemptions are available for those holding legal practicing certificates and for members of accounting professional bodies.

The MIA has been approved by the MARA as one of two PRP provider organisations and has developed a comprehensive Program to meet new agents' needs. The course will be available in an intensive and a staggered delivery format, with Sydney to host the first staggered delivery PRP course in December and dates for other major centres to be announced soon.

Visit the dedicated PRP page on the MIA website for more information.



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