



IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Monday 8 February 2010**

## **MIGRATION PROGRAM STILL UNCERTAIN**

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) congratulates the Minister on a long-overdue overhaul of the migration system, but says yet-to-be-announced policy will have major implications for current and prospective visa applicants.

“We sympathise with the 20,000 people who have had their applications cancelled as they are sure to be disappointed. They do, however, have some measure of certainty, which is something that current international students and those already in the migration pipeline and affected by priority processing don’t have” said CEO Maurene Horder.

The MIA sees improvements coming from this new migration process and welcomes a closer matching of skills and employment outcomes. However, the MIA waits with interest to see the new Skilled Occupation List (SOL), due for release in April, and the points test review.

“As long as these details are unknown, current and potential applicants are in the dark about Australia’s migration requirements. Applicants still only have vague government information to use when making life-changing decisions.”

A range of unregistered agents on and offshore as well as education institutions took advantage of the clear pathway that government had legislated for people who satisfied Australian study requirements.

“It’s disappointing that the Minister is trying to use migration agents as a scapegoat when problems with the migration system were actually caused by governments and not by migration agents.” said Ms Horder.

The MIA agrees that skilled migration is vital for Australia’s future prosperity and urges it to make the immigration process as clear and fair as possible for those wishing to live, work and study in Australia.

### ***Available for Interview:***

Maurene Horder, Chief Executive Officer

### ***Contact:***

Tara Grimshaw, Communications Manager - Migration Institute of Australia

Phone: 0410 532 995 Email: [tara.grimshaw@mia.org.au](mailto:tara.grimshaw@mia.org.au)

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**MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA**

T 02 9279 3140 | F 02 9279 3172 | E [info@mia.org.au](mailto:info@mia.org.au) | W [www.mia.org.au](http://www.mia.org.au)  
Post: PO Box Q102, QVB Post Office NSW 1230 | Street: Level 3, 83 York Street, Sydney  
ABN 83 003 409 390