



**ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION  
REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA**

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI 1860  
Registration No.: S-31213 of 1997

**Mailing Address:**  
1018 Hemkunt Chambers  
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Tel: 011 4161 9596, 91 98 11 505 494  
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## **Four corners' degrees of deception - Balanced view point missing**

### ***India and AAERI:***

India is one of the key sources of International students to Australia. In 1996, AEI promoted a self-regulated Agent peak-body in India and this Association (AAERI: Association of Australian Education Representatives in India) ([www.aaeri.org](http://www.aaeri.org)) will enter its 20<sup>th</sup> year later this year. It is a non-profit body and all active representatives of quality providers in India (including IDP) are members of AAERI. Australian High Commission, New Delhi and the various departments (DET, DIBP and Austrade) continue to actively support the agent body including attend its meetings.

### ***ABC's Four Corners' Degree of Deception:***

AAERI always welcomes any investigation into the Australian Education system and also the recruitment procedure / processes from India. Last week, ABC aired the above program that was to highlight the weakness in the Australian Education sector at large. The programme highlighted

- that Australian Education Providers have compromised in education quality standards via recruitment practices.
- that pendulum has swung more towards recruitment and less towards education quality standards.

However, AAERI is of the view that the programme does not cover the complete realistic picture and certainly the other view-point is missing. Today there are thousands of Indian students who have opted for their Australian Education over other destinations and are significantly contributing to the society at large in India, Australia and also in other parts of the world. Their success is broadly due to the Australian Education, which the Australian Education provider has imparted via rigorous theoretical and practical studies. As the AAERI President and an Australian Alumni, I will confidently say that the Australian Education provides a new life to the International students. The Australian Education not only provides World class Education but also the experience, which prepares the students with real life's challenges. It also creates valuable ambassadors for Australia around the world.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS:**

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| <b>President:</b><br>Rahul A Gandhi | <b>Vice-President:</b><br>Mr Bubbly Johar | <b>General Secretary:</b><br>Mr Nishidhar Reddy Borra | <b>Treasurer:</b><br>Mr Rupesh Duggal | <b>Secretary:</b><br>Mr Rupesh Patel |
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#### **Other Executive Members:**

Mr Kishore Kumar Beengi • Mr Sabesan M • Mr Nirmal Chawla • Mr Gulshan Kumar • Mr Inder Panjwani (Honorary) • Mr Ravi Lochan Singh



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The programme highlights an American critique / risk of using an Education agent in recruiting students by the Australian Education provider. But the truth is that in last 5 years more and more American Education providers have signed up Education agents in India which are not regulated at all by any Independent body or law.

The programme would have done well to include the positive efforts being taken by the institutions and the government over the last few years and how the situation has actually improved. AAERI has been beefed up and its membership criteria have tightened in recent years. The association has not shied from taking disciplinary action against any agents who may be in violation of its strict code of conduct. AAERI members have to undertake to advertising norms and have a schedule of fees. Further, all members give undertaking to abide by the ESOS Act.

Generalisations about Agents is unwelcome and Agents who are members of AAERI have already committed to several self-regulatory requirements including evidence of track-record and third party integrity checks. AAERI disciplinary actions are already well known. The role of AAERI as a stakeholder is widely appreciated and several of its formal and informal recommendations have been welcomed. The acceptance of multiple English Tests (other than IELTS) is a result of efforts made by AAERI several years ago. AAERI has also provided useful inputs to the departments that have helped in forming of its policies in recent years. AAERI finds mention in any effort that US, UK, NZ or Canadians make in working on their agent strategies.

We wish that the ABC had taken the perspectives of the bodies such as AAERI that work for the betterment of the industry and had avoided generalisations that tend to colour all agents alike. This works against the interest of the good that AAERI is doing and further harms the industry altogether.

Released by Mr Rahul Gandhi, President, AAERI.  
aaeri@aaeri.org

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