



**ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION  
REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA**

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## **Media Release - Emigration Bill, 2019 (India) – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

The Ministry of External Affairs proposes to introduce the Emigration Bill, 2019 in Parliament that will replace the existing Emigration Act, 1983.

AAERI welcomes the effort of The Ministry of External Affairs to introduce the Emigration Bill, 2019. The Bill proposes to constitute an Emigration Management Authority (EMA) by the Central Government to ensure the overall welfare and protection of emigrants. It will be the overarching authority to provide policy guidance, undertaking comprehensive review and stocktaking on emigration management related matters. This includes students intend to Study Abroad and Education agents Promoting Study abroad.

AAERI WELCOMES the salient features of the bill

- Mandatory Registration of Indian student pursuing higher studies abroad putting in place an effective emigration management framework aimed at assisting every student in times of distress and emergency
- Registration and Rating of Student Enrolment Agencies effectively bringing in the control mechanism to ensure strict compliance by every agency.

AAERI welcomes the provision of a representation of the industry in addition to various Government departments. AAERI has studied the bill and will do a submission to Indian Government soon with feedback. AAERI would put in all efforts to formally represent its members before the External Affairs Ministry and would also contribute towards the finer provisions aimed at ensuring that the intent of the regulation is met and in the interest of the students.

The draft Emigration Bill as well as a Note on its salient aspects has been uploaded on the Ministry's website for seeking feedback/comments from the public and may be accessed at <https://mea.gov.in/emigrationbill.htm>

### **About AAERI**

AAERI (Association of Australian Education Representations in India) is a non-profit society registered in India that was set up through an initiative of Australian High Commission, New Delhi in 1996. The goal for this initiative was to encourage self-regulation and enabling best practices amongst Education Representatives who work with Australian Universities. Almost all Indian agencies who work with recognised Universities are members of AAERI and additionally the members have to undertake a third party integrity check and their counselors have to clear a certification test.

In addition to acting as a bridge between education agencies and the compliance teams of the Australian Government, AAERI has also served as a bridge between Indian Government departments and Australian Institutions in the past. In 2009-10, when certain developments affected the "education" relationship between India and Australia, AAERI worked jointly with Indian High Commissioner in Australia (Ms Sujatha Singh) and Indian Consul General in Melbourne and Sydney. AAERI has also worked for recognition of qualifications and has presented before the Ministry of HRD and other departments of the Government of India.

Education agents, including members of AAERI, are responsible and recognised for referring most international students to education providers in Australia. AAERI has worked hard to extend the application and implementation of the Australian ESOS Act & the National Code (which are designed to protect the interest of International students) across the Indian subcontinent – i.e. in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and starting in soon, Sri Lanka.

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