



**ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION  
REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA**

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

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**“Securing longevity of International Education links between India and Australia requires that stakeholders consider AAERI advise.”**

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ABC’s FOUR CORNERS aired an investigative report this day where the focus was around commercial short-term interests of certain education providers overriding the overall interest of the sector. Just last year, a report prepared by Mr Peter Varghese had identified “International Education” as the prime bind between the India and Australia. There has been a spotlight around compliance and plugging any loopholes that exist in the system.

AAERI did its part in highlighting the shortcomings with “streamlining” and how it was not serving the best of intentions. A video recording of the AAERI 2018 convention is available on the YouTube. An AAERI advisory ([http://www.aaeri.in/AAERI\\_Advisory\\_on\\_use\\_of\\_MOI\\_letters.pdf](http://www.aaeri.in/AAERI_Advisory_on_use_of_MOI_letters.pdf)) issued in August also includes a slide of the then chair of AUIDF (Australian Universities International Directors Forum), Mr Oliver Fortescue, where the loophole allowing streamlined institutions has been well explained. AAERI also raised and discussed the issue with Department of Home Affairs which has repeatedly indicated that Universities should not be waiving the “English Test Requirement” and there have been newsletters from the Department of Home Affairs thereafter where providers have been clarified that the department will not deem the waiver based on MOI as having met the English requirement.

AAERI will continue to do its part in ensuring that the integrity of the sector is maintained and for this will work with all stakeholders. It is quite clear that the SSVF and Streamlining has not worked as was desired. Universities (and the education agents) have commercial interest in the recruitment of the student and the expectation of the Department of Home Affairs to outsource their responsibility in checking the GTE and financial/academic ability to the institutions is a clear conflict of interest. While the official line of the Department of Home Affairs is that MOI letters don’t replace the English Test requirement and if the Department asks the students to demonstrate the English ability, these will not be considered, the reality is that COEs have a provision to allow education providers to consider alternatives to English Tests and they accept the MOI letters as an alternative. What is also true is that the online visa mechanism can mean that even the student with the waived English Test can get a visa through an automatic process.

**OFFICE BEARERS:**

<b>President:</b> Mr. Ravi Lochan Singh	<b>Vice President:</b> Mr. Bubby Johar	<b>General Secretary:</b> Mr. C.G. Balaji	<b>Treasurer:</b> Mr. Kishore Beengi	<b>Secretary:</b> Mr. Rupesh Patel
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**Other Executive Members**

Mr. Rahul A. Gandhi Head, Visa Committee	Mr. Nishidhar Reddy Executive	Mr. Rupesh Duggal Executive	Mr. Nirmla Chawla Head, Disciplinary Committee	Mr. Prasanna Acharya Head, New Applications Committee
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The program aired today identifies the problem at hand. Universities seem to be passing the buck to the Department of Home Affairs for the process in place while the Department has indicated that the providers have a greater responsibility. Instead of a blame game, what is required is the way forward. AAERI believes that there is a conflict of interest here. The core role of the Universities is to teach and train students academically and over the last few years some may have done a better job with integrity checks, much still is to be desired as was seen in last one year with large numbers of students onshore who have not been able to complete even one semester of study with full study load. Inadequate recruitment practices by certain providers can affect student retention and encourage student touting and poaching by onshore influences primarily onshore migration agents. There is a need to review release policies and a need to monitor the onshore conduct of migration agents pertaining to their role with education sector. Many such students move on to low quality providers onshore using onshore migration agents. Offshore education agents thus lose out on remuneration too. The role of offshore education agents end with a successful enrolment and retention of students is a sole responsibility of the education provider. Retention is only possible if the recruitment has been done without lowering the English and Financial requirements. The experience of the industry has been that majority of students with waived English Test requirement have often not completed the program of study at the institution that recruited them.

- AAERI desires that the SSVF and Streamlining is immediately reviewed and in the interim, Education Providers be required to abstain from waiving the English Test requirement.
- AAERI also demands that Universities acknowledge that offshore agents have no role with retention of students onshore and their remuneration is not impacted.

**Securing longevity of International Education links between India and Australia requires that stakeholders consider AAERI advise.**

Sincerely,

Ravi Lochan Singh  
President, AAERI.

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