

March has become a time of very significant changes to a variety of visas for skilled migrants, visitors and temporary workers. The 457 visa is under much discussion and proposed changes. March is also the month when most multicultural events and activities are celebrated.

General Skilled Migrants visa subclass 475, 487, 176, and 886

This information is for you if you have applied for subclass 475, 487 (Skilled Regional Sponsored) or 176, 886 (Skilled Sponsored) visas. Through SkillSelect online, state and territory governments are now able to directly nominate people online who have expressed an interest in skilled migration. As a result the department is now working to finalise the state and territory government nominated visa applications made before the availability of SkillSelect.

Processing for subclass 475, 487, 176 and 886 visa applications

Where a state or territory government nomination has been approved DIAC advises that your visa application will be given priority processing group 3 status and will be allocated to a visa processing officer.

Nomination evidence

If you want to provide information relevant to your nomination, please use the following email address: gsm.documents@immi.gov.au
Evidence may include:

- A completed Form 1100 State/Territory Nomination submitted to the department by the nominating state or territory government (this is our preferred form of evidence) or
- Written correspondence confirming nomination from the state or territory government.

Eligible occupations

Your nominated occupation must be on either of the following:

- Skilled occupation list (in effect at time of visa application lodgement)
- Current Consolidated Sponsored Occupation List

Further information on the occupation lists is available on our website or contact Managing Partner, [David Bitel](#).

When will my visa application be considered?

If you have an approved nomination

Your visa will be processed in line with the current priority processing direction and migration program planning levels.

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If you do not have an approved nomination

DIAC will need to review each application and the information provided regarding the nomination.

If you have not been contacted by a visa processing officer you should do one of the following:

- Ask your nominating state or territory government to send evidence of your nomination directly to the department.
- Send evidence of your nomination to DIAC at gsm.documents@immi.gov.au

Information on priority processing arrangements is available on the DIAC website. See: Allocation Dates for General Skilled Migration Applications www.immi.gov.au

Changes to visitor and temporary work visas from 23 March 2013

DIAC has introduced significant changes to the Visitor and Medical Treatment visas with effect 23 March 2013. DIAC will no longer be accepting new applications for the following visas:

- Tourist visa (subclass 676)
- Sponsored family visitor visa (subclass 679)
- Business (short Stay) visa (Subclass 456)
- Sponsored business visitor (short stay) visa (subclass 459)
- Medical Treatment (short stay) visa (subclass 675)
- Medical Treatment (long stay) visa (subclass 685)
- Electronic Travel Authority (visitor) (subclass 976)
- Electronic Travel Authority (business – short validity) (subclass 977)
- Electronic Travel Authority (business – long validity) (subclass 956)

Applicants who were previously eligible for the visas listed above may be eligible for one of the following five visa subclass below.

- Temporary work (short stay activity) visa (subclass 400)
- Visitor visa (subclass 600)
- Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)
- Medical Treatment visa (subclass 602)
- eVisitor (subclass 651)

Important changes to Australia's Visitor visa arrangements.

From 23 March 2013 visitors seeking a new visa to enter Australia for non-work purposes will need to apply for a new Visitor (Subclass 600) visa. These visas will allow for tourism, family visits, and business visitor activities (undertaking of business enquiries and contractual negotiations, and attending conferences). These visas will not allow business visitors to perform work.

Persons seeking a visa to enter Australia to engage in short-term, non-ongoing, highly specialized work should apply for the new Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (Subclass 400) visa or another visa which permits work.

The Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (Subclass 400) visa is an unsponsored visa that will also provide for persons invited to participate in an event such as a sporting competition.

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Persons who hold a visa issued before 23 March 2013 will continue to be able to use that visa until it expires.

For further information on these changes please go to:

www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor-visa

or contact Managing Partner, [David Bitel](#).

Cutting Red Tape for Visitor Visas

Visitor visas will be simplified and a new short stay activity visa was rolled out as part of the Government's commitment to cut red tape in March.

"The Government is determined to cut red tape and make it easier for visitors to understand which visa they need for a short stay visit or work visa. The number of visitor visas will be cut from nine to four subclasses and a number of requirements have been standardised. There will be no change to current visa eligibility for tourism, business visitor activities, sponsored family visits, and medical treatment, and care has been taken to ensure there is no impact on program integrity settings," Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor said.

The new short stay activity visa enables people to come to Australia to carry out short-term, non-ongoing, highly specialised work, where the skills required are not otherwise readily available. The visa will also allow for the entry of people who are invited from overseas to participate in events.

"It is not related to the 457 program for temporary skilled visas and the Government remains committed to strengthening the safeguards to ensure the 457 program is not being exploited by unscrupulous employers to the disadvantage of local workers."

Further details of the new visitor visa group can be found at:

www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/bo/2013/bo194165.htm>

Visa Pioneer pleads for 457s

Allowing fewer foreign employees into Australia will force more companies to relocate operations overseas, according to the man who designed the 457 visa program. "The benefit of the 457 visa is that work gets done here," Mr Neville Roach said. "People come here, live here, spend their incomes here. They contribute to the country. They contribute to the country."

The visa enables employees to sponsor foreigners to work in Australia for up to four years. They were originally known as "Roach visas" because the committee that recommended them in 1996 was chaired by Mr Roach. The committee was set up by then Prime Minister Paul Keating in 1994 to suggest how to meet the demand for skills including in IT. He said there was "no question" that training locals should remain a priority and was right to expect business to put local workers ahead of foreign workers. But he said people could not always be trained in time to meet the demands of business, and IT was a sector particularly vulnerable to offshoring.

Mr Roach arrived in Australia in the 1960s as a temporary worker when the White Australian policy was in force. He has had a distinguished career in the computer

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industry and said it should also not be surprising that so many IT workers were from other countries. "I know the numbers are high but to me that's a reflection of the scale of major technology projects. Everyone knows IT is running our lives.

Article from The Australian Financial Review dated 16/17 March 2013.

Ombudsman to check 457 visas

The Fair Work Ombudsman has been given the power to monitor and enforce 457 visa compliance in the latest toughening of the temporary foreign worker program. Immigration Minister Brendan O'Connor and Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten announced that the Fair Work Ombudsman would be given the power to ensure workers on 457 visas were employed in the right jobs and were receiving market salary rates.

The move will bring in about 300 extra inspectors to police the scheme and they will be charged with ensuring 457 visa holders are paid at the market salary rate and that the job they are performing matches the job title and description approved in their visa with the sponsoring employer. At the moment, the Immigration Department has 34 inspectors policing 457 visas.

Minister O'Connor said there had not been sufficient resources in place to police the 457 program.

But combined with the inspectors from the immigration Department, the government would now have a much greater capacity for oversight.

"These reforms are vital, they are important to the scheme. They will ensure a greater degree of confidence in the efficacy of these arrangements. They will ensure that employers do the right thing and they will ensure that local workers will get the jobs when there are not genuine skills shortages in our economy." Mr O'Connor said.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/ombudsman-to-check-457-visas/story-fn9hm1qu-1226600139967>

Significant abuse of the 457 visa scheme has been recently reported, with many worrying stories of 457 visa holders paying significant amounts illegally for non bona fide visa sponsorships, and employers exploiting badly vulnerable 457 visa holders. "Intending 457 visa applicants should be very careful to ensure they do not become a victim willingly or otherwise of such scams" warned Managing Partner "David Bitel.

457 applications up 9.5 per cent

Latest figures show that the number of 457 visa applications jumped by 9.5 per cent this year, while the number of 457 visas granted grew by 6.6 per cent.

The figures come in the face of the Government's decision to take action to close loopholes in the 457 program to ensure that local jobseekers are not disadvantaged by unscrupulous employers bringing in temporary workers from overseas.

At January 31, 2013 there were more than 105, 000 people in Australia working on temporary 457 visas. That is an increase of 22.4 per cent compared to January

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2012. The overall trend is clear – more people are coming in on temporary skilled worker visas. This comes at a time when the unemployment rate is flat, not dropping. We know that in the IT industry, for example, 457 visas have increased by 68 per cent while vacancies for local IT workers are decreasing. The Government announced it will not sit idly by while Australian citizens and permanent skilled migrants lose out to unscrupulous employers. Reforms announced to the 457 program are:

- Make business sponsors declare that they will commit to employing Australian citizens
- Make training Australian citizens an enforceable requirement of 457 applications.
- Make employers show that the position is genuine
- Restrict the number of workers that a business can sponsor
- Tighten the definitions of eligible positions
- Strengthen the market rate provision to stop undercutting of local conditions
- Tighten on-hiring arrangements so that sponsors cannot bring someone in and then let them work for an unrelated company at a different salary.

See: Subclass 457 – Temporary Work (Skilled) Visa Statistics

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/bo/2013/bo194119.htm>

For more information on 457 visas and the changes contact Diana Tong and Tina Nematian in our office.

Flood of foreign doctors to come under scrutiny

The Federal Government has agreed to monitor the recruitment of Resident Medical Officers from overseas following concerns raised by the AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton. He cited reports that 260 doctors had not been offered an RMO2 position in Victoria and “we understand that hundreds of RMOs in Queensland have not received an offer of a place with Queensland Health.”

“It seems untenable that locally-trained graduates and junior doctors face potential unemployment while we continue to recruit large numbers of RMOs directly from overseas.”

While international medical graduates made an “enormous contribution” to the health system, he said growth in the number of medical graduates meant the country was now in a position to begin moving away from its reliance on overseas doctors to fill vacancies.

He said there were close to 3500 medical graduates last year and the number was expected to reach close to 4000 a year by 2016. At the same time, the intake of RMOs from overseas was also growing. Immigration Department figures show 1260 doctors from overseas were granted 457 visas in 2011-12, rising to more than 2000 by the end of August 2012.

“The 457 Class visa is intended to fill workforce gaps, not displace locally trained and highly skilled graduates and junior doctors who want to make a long-term contribution to the health of our nation,” he said. “The current data suggests that the Visa is not being used as it was intended. The AMA believes it is time for the Government to undertake an urgent review of the recruitment of RMOs directly from overseas on the 457 Class visa, particularly within the public hospital system.” Dr Hambleton said.

<http://ausmed.ama.com.au/flood-foreign-doctors-come-under-scrutiny>

Special envoy on asylum seekers

Former defence chief Angus Houston has been appointed Australia's special envoy on asylum seekers in a bid by the Government to build support for a regional solution to people smuggling and better protection for refugees. Confirming the appointment, the Prime Minister said it had not been announced because the nature of the role was "quiet diplomacy" through direct talks with the key source and transit countries. "I have asked him to move around the region and talk to people about this issue," as he returned from his first eight-day mission to Sri Lanka, Thailand and Pakistan.

Mr Houston now leaves for Indonesia to prepare for the fifth meeting of ministers involved in the Bali process on regional cooperation in April. He said he was seeking to build on the work of the expert panel he chaired last year: "I feel - and I think just about everybody feels - that a regional approach is the only way we are going to come to grips with what is truly a wicked problem of major proportions."

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/houstons-new-mission-is-special-envoy-on-asylum-seekers-20130318-2gb8q.html>

Asylum seeker's deportation ruled illegal

More than 100 Afghan asylum seekers could have their failed refugee assessments reviewed after a court ruled that former Immigration Minister Chris Bowen had illegally ordered one man's removal to Afghanistan. The Federal Court has spared the man's removal to Afghanistan after he had spent about two years in detention. All five judges on the Bench described Mr Bowen's handling of the case of a Hazara as "disturbing".

They declared Mr Bowen's decision invalid and restrained Immigration Minister Brendan O'Connor from removing the man "until the claims for protection ... have been assessed according to law". The decision is a setback for the government's hopes of using the involuntary return of "failed" asylum seekers to deter more arrivals.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/asylum-seekers-deportation-ruled-illegal-setting-back-government-hopes-of-deterrent-20130320-2gg2d.html>

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship v SZQRB (includes Corrigendum dated 22 March 2013)
[2013] FCAFC 33 (20 March 2013)

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/FCAFC/2013/33.html>

Immigration Health Advisory group (IHAG) replaces DeHAG

The new health advisory body established to provide independent advice on the health needs of asylum seekers and newly settled humanitarian entrants has begun operations.

The Immigration Health Advisory Group (IHAG) members, led by former Defence Force medical officer Dr Paul Alexander AO, includes expert medical professionals, psychiatrists, psychologists and GPs, as well as advocates and officials.

"IHAG will have a broader scope than the former Detention Health Advisory Group [DeHAG] which was instrumental in facilitating improvements in health care for people in detention," a departmental spokesman said.

“Since DeHAG’s establishment, there have been significant changes in the size, nature and complexity of the immigration detention and status resolution environment, including expanded use of community detention and the use of bridging visas for clients who formerly would have been in immigration detention.” The spokesman said the new group would not only advise on the needs of people in detention but also on the health of asylum seekers in the community, as well as recent humanitarian visa holders.

“The expanded capacity of the group includes the design, development, implementation and evaluation of health and mental health policies and services for asylum seekers, refugees or recently granted permanent visa holders receiving support through the department’s assistance programs,” the spokesman added.

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/immigration-health-advisory-group-ihag-replaces-dehag>

Completion of Nauru client accommodation

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has announced the completion of the first permanent client accommodation building in Nauru. “There is capacity for 88 people in the new accommodation,” a departmental spokesman said.

Decisions on client transfers into the new building will be based on a variety of operational factors, including length of time spent in the temporary facility. Additional accommodation will become available over the coming months.

“The Topside facility will provide accommodation and amenity for 900 single adult males. During this transition phase, all temporary education, recreational, medical and other facilities will remain functional until their more permanent counterparts are operational,” the spokesman added

Permanent recreation, catering, medical and other facilities will also become available later this year, with the immediate focus on building sufficient accommodation for the people currently housed in the temporary facility.

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/completion-of-nauru-client-accommodation>

Shining light on Country of Birth Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released QuickStats Country of Birth, a program to help users understand geographic areas in terms of the country of birth of its residents based on figures from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

QuickStats Country of Birth allows users to search geographic areas ranging from Australia, States and Territories, Greater Capital City Statistical Areas and Rest of State by selecting from the top 53 countries of birth recorded in the 2011 Census.

Director, Culture, Recreation and Migrant Statistics, Andrew Middleton said, “The Census gives us an insight into who we are, what we do and where we come from. QuickStats Country of Birth provides a narrative of general statistics on selected migrant groups for particular geographical areas around the country.”

Census data is available free online and can be used for a wide range of purposes.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/>

AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURALISM

Welcome to Harmony Day

Harmony Day 2013: Many Stories – One Australia. Australia's cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. We all make up the pages of a bigger Australia and we all have a story to tell. We invite you to tell your story with each other – in workplaces, on social network sites, at schools or within communities. You may also choose to share your story with all Australians by taking a photo, filming a video, or writing an article. Share your story today.

<http://www.harmony.gov.au/>

National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia

In a descriptive sense multicultural is simply a term which describes the cultural and ethnic diversity of contemporary Australia. We are, and will remain, a multicultural society.

As a public policy multiculturalism encompasses government measures designed to respond to that diversity. It plays no part in migrant selection. It is a policy for managing the consequences of cultural diversity in the interests of the individual and society as a whole.

The Commonwealth Government has identified three dimensions of multicultural policy:

- cultural identity: the right of all Australians, within carefully defined limits, to express and share their individual cultural heritage, including their language and religion;
- social justice: the right of all Australians to equality of treatment and opportunity, and the removal of barriers of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, gender or place of birth; and
- economic efficiency: the need to maintain, develop and utilize effectively the skills and talents of all Australians, regardless of background.

As a necessary response to the reality of Australia's cultural diversity, multicultural policies aim to realize a better Australia characterized by an enhanced degree of social justice and economic efficiency.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/multicultural/agenda/agenda89/whatismu.htm>

Immigration attends Melbourne's Kurdish New Year

Free phone cards to "call home" with important messages about Australia's changed refugee processing arrangements and increased humanitarian and family visa places were distributed as part of celebrating Nowruz/Newroz, the Persian new year.

"Australia is a diverse nation which welcomes people from all cultures but we encourage them to come here through safe and regular migration channels," a DIAC spokesman said.

There was traditional Kurdish food, music, dancing, as well as a photo booth and popcorn machine on hand. The DIAC information booth included online access to the department's website and a \$5 international phone card for people to contact family members at home to spread the message.

The spokesman said engagement with diaspora communities was part of a broader campaign by the Australian Government to stop the tragic loss of life at sea and to encourage people to come the regular way to Australia. "The simple message is – tell your family and friends overseas to come the right way. Don't risk being sorry," the spokesman added.

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/immigration-attends-melbourne-s-kurdish-new-year>

The Journey makes migrant communities feel at home

More than 50 per cent of Australians were born overseas or born in Australia to migrant parents, and the Australian Government's *The Journey* magazine is a roadmap to the services they need.

Former Minister for Human Services Senator Kim Carr said *The Journey* provides useful Government information for migrant community organisations.

"Australians have immigration to thank for the riches we enjoy today. Our economy and our community are stronger because of migrants. Our job in Human Services is to help all our people give their full potential – whether they were born in this country or made the choice to come here. The Department has a large range of services and information for people who are new to Australia or come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Through *The Journey*, it works with community groups to bring the service to the people," Senator Kim Carr said.

"The Department of Human Services provides multicultural services to around five million people, and offers free interpreting in over 235 languages by almost 3,000 interpreters. If you speak a language other than English, you can use the Translating and Interpreting Service for Medicare and Child Support by calling **131 450** or **131 202** for Centrelink."

http://www.mhs.gov.au/media/media_releases/2013/02/19_feb_2013_-_the_journey_makes_migrant_communities_feel_at_home.php

Champions of migration celebrated at national award ceremony

Seven outstanding individuals and organisations were honoured for their work assisting new migrants successfully settle in the community at the inaugural 2013 Australian Migration and Settlement Awards at Parliament House, Canberra.

The winners were selected from among 24 finalists across the categories: Case Worker of the Year, Settlement Innovation, Business Inclusion, Sports Leadership, Journalism Excellence, Diversity and the Law, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Prime Minister, The Honourable Julia Gillard MP, was the keynote speaker at the gala dinner hosted by the Migration Council of Australia (MCA), which brought together business, journalists and the community sector to recognise the remarkable achievements of new migrants and those who support them to build a more inclusive and diverse Australia.

CEO of MCA, Carla Wilshire, said the calibre of the finalists and award recipients highlighted the impressive work being undertaken by individuals, support organisations and national companies to empower new migrants.

"The award winners reflect the depth of support available to new migrants when they arrive in Australia to help them successfully settle in the community," Ms Wilshire said.

"At a national level, it's important to recognise the important work being undertaken across Australia to support new migrants.

"Australia is a migration nation and the prosperity of our nation depends on the strength of our settlement services and the willingness of community groups, the legal sectors, the media and business to assist new migrants transition to their new life."

<http://www.migrationcouncil.org.au/news/media-releases/champions-of-migration-celebrated-at-national-award-ceremony/>

MCA calls for more migrant services

Migration Council Australia welcomed the release of the latest Scanlon Foundation 'Mapping Social Cohesion' reports and called for more migrant services to counter rising levels of discrimination and division in high migrant areas.

"There are some worrying trends that if left unaddressed could have a real impact on Australia's social cohesion."

"It is time state and federal governments looked at boosting settlement services for new migrants, including English language assistance and cultural orientation programs, to make sure we remain a cohesive and harmonious society."

"Australia is a migration nation and as long as we need skills and workers to address our ageing population we'll need to find ways to settle migrants effectively and give them the best possible chance to contribute." MCA CEO Carla Wilshire said.

<http://www.migrationcouncil.org.au/news/media-releases/mca-curb-rising-discrimination/>

Empowering multicultural communities

The Government has announced new measures to support Australia's vibrant and diverse multicultural communities. The \$15 million investment will empower local communities to embrace the benefits of multiculturalism and maintain cohesive and socially inclusive neighbourhoods.

These measures will complement the Government's People of Australia policy which reinforces an appreciation of the benefits our diverse communities present.

The measures include:

- working in partnership with the Scanlon Foundation, the Migration Council of Australia and Murdoch Children's Research Institute to engage local coordinators in up to 100 communities across Australia to enhance social inclusion and improve connections to support services provided by the three spheres of government
- a commitment to provide resources to improve infrastructure that will enhance social inclusion and create meeting places that bring together individuals and families in the community
- expanding the current Diversity and Social Cohesion Program to meet significant demand in this program and provide capacity for specific investments to promote social inclusion and build resilience in particular communities at risk of social discord and

- increasing resources for language translation services for Commonwealth programs to ensure that all Australians have equal access to government services and programs.

Australia's future will be based on participation and inclusion. Evidence over generations demonstrates that providing a welcoming, accessible and supportive environment for migrant families when they arrive in Australia and throughout their lives leads to better social and economic outcomes in the short, medium and long term.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/kl/2013/kl195183.htm>

New sporting opportunities

Multicultural youth from across the country can look forward to new sporting opportunities with the third round of the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program. It provides grants to organisations of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to help youth from new and emerging communities and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in sport within their local communities.

“Sport is an important part of Australian culture, and as a government we want to help local sporting organisations better connect with new and emerging communities.”

“Through this program we are helping refugees and new migrants to better understand Australian culture through sport.” Senator Lundy said.

For more information about the grants, visit the Australian Sports Commission website.

See: [Australian Sports Commission](#)

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/kl/2013/kl194824.htm>

\$75 000 for Western Sydney's Association of Bhanin El-Minieh

The program aims to help migrants and refugees become independent, acquire crucial skills and knowledge about life in Australia.

“The Association of Bhanin El-Minieh provides vital support for migrants and refugees from Arabic backgrounds in the Western Sydney region.”

‘I’m pleased to announce the Association’s work will continue to be supported by the Government under the Settlements Grants Program.’

“This funding will ensure the Association can continue to offer migrants and refugees from Arabic background support, guidance and advice as they settle in Western Sydney.” Senator Lundy said.

Practical settlement services are the backbone of Australia's successful migration program.

From 1 July 2013, a total of 102 new grants delivered through more than 100 organisations will be funded under SGP.

A list of successful 2013-14 applicants is available.

See: [Funded Services](#)

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/kl/2013/kl194960.htm>

Multiculturalism and settlement services

Australia should be proud of its world-class settlement services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, said at the *Migration & Multiculturalism: Lessons from Europe and Australia* conference in Canberra.

Focusing on recent trends in migration in Europe and Australia, the conference puts the spotlight on policy lessons that can be drawn from Europe and Australia, highlighting Australia's successful settlement of migrants in society.

'Our brand of multiculturalism has been underpinned by practical settlement strategies – including migrant resource centres, multicultural youth organisations, English tuition centres and cultural orientation programs.'

The Government works to ensure Australia remains a just, inclusive and socially cohesive society where everyone can participate in the opportunities the country offers.

'Our settlement services are world-class, our citizenship policy is non-discriminatory and inclusive, which has resulted in Australia having one of the highest uptakes of citizenship in the world,' Senator Lundy said.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/kl/2013/kl194099.htm>

Refugee's journey to university success

Zainab Kaabi finished high school 11 years ago. But her personal accomplishment was also an exceptionally proud and significant moment for her mentor and former principal. Not only did Dorothy Hoddinott once willingly add \$9000 to her personal credit cards to secure her student a place at university. But the young asylum seeker inspired her to set up a trust fund in her name, which has since expanded to support refugee students studying in public high schools and universities across the state.

The Friends of Zainab trust fund was established when, in her final year of high school, Zainab Kaabi told Hoddinott she would have to drop out because, as she was now an adult, she would no longer be eligible for her welfare payments under the condition of her temporary protection visa.

Hoddinott recalls telling her "I'm not going to let you leave school, you're too good. Sorry but you're a scholarly girl." She contacted everyone she knew for donations and set up a trust fund, allowing her to remain at school.

The donations continued to support her through a bachelor of medical sciences at Macquarie University and a bachelor of pharmacy at Sydney University. "It was like a dream come true and it was a special feeling that Mrs Hoddinott was so happy for me," she said. Hoddinott sees many students like Zainab Kaabi come through the gates of her school and she says her challenge is to get as many of them into tertiary education as possible.

"Once they're at university, most of our kids do well and their learning trajectory is dramatic and steep. Last year, we had kids from Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq, Iran and many other places," the chief executive of the Public Education Foundation, Verity Firth, said. "Many of these students lived for a considerable amount of time in refugee camps and have had very limited formal schooling. These kids come to our schools, learn English and then go on to really contribute to Australian society in the most positive of ways. It tells the story of just how great migration is and why we should be welcoming these people for the contributions they bring."

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/refugees-journey-to-uni-success-20130324-2gnsc.html>

A.P.B. Education Specialist IELTS Test Training and Coaching

Passing an IELTS test is now an essential requirement for all applicants for General Skills Migration, student visas, and for many employer sponsored applicants. Adrian Bitel provides individual lessons to assist applicants achieve proficiency to the required levels in:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

He gives comprehensive ONE to ONE Personalised Coaching in any or all of the above areas.

Contact: Adrian Bitel on (02) 9286 8700 or Mobile: 0412 656 026

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