

UIA Student Discussion Forum Press Release

A discussion forum was organized by United Indian Associations (UIA) on 30 November 2009 focusing on issues of International Students and Indian Sub Continent Communities. It was attended among others by Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair, Community Relations Commission (CRC) NSW, Mr Adam Blinman and Shaun from Students Wing of Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Mr Peter Spolc, the International Students Advisor from University of Western Sydney, Ms Melanie Duncan, Business Development Manager of ACACIA and Ms Sheetal Challam Executive from CRC. Mr Onkaraswamy, Mr Kiran Desai and Mr Ashish Ganda represented the ethnic media.

The forum was opened by Dr Rohitas Batta, Chair of the Students and Community Liaison Committee of UIA. Students issues like safety and problems arising because of the closure of RTOs in Australia were discussed. The Chair of CRC highlighted the steps taken by NSW Government to address various issues of the International students including information being released as a pamphlet by the Hon Premier of NSW to assist International Students. Transport Concession, accommodation and other problems were highlighted by the students present in the Forum. Immigration related problems were satisfactorily answered by Adam, Manager of the Students wing in DIAC.

Mrs Aruna Chandrala, President UIA outlined the services provided by the apex organization to the community in general and students in particular. UIA Chairperson had emphasized that community services to all are available from the UIA office on all working days from 9.00am to 5.00 pm. UIA will assist in directing the students and needy community members to the relevant Ministries, Departments or Organizations where the assistance can be provided.

Clr. Dilip Chopra in his capacity as the Vice President of UIA satisfactorily co-ordinated most of the discussion part in the forum. Dr Moninder Singh, Secretary UIA supplemented the discussion with some facts about the assistance from UIA for the students belonging to recently closed Meridian and Sterling Colleges. Students and Community Committee members of UIA, Mr Immanuel and Mr Sunil Srivastava aided the discussion about the related issues of the students.

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