



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE **MERIDIAN COLLEGE CLOSURE**

On behalf of UIA, Dr Rohitas Batta, Chair UIA Students & Community Liaison Committee is assisting the affected students of the Meridian Colleges.

On Friday, 6 November 2009 when the closure notices were pasted on the doors of Meridian Colleges and a large number of students were on the road, Dr Batta reached the Surry Hills Campus and met the students. There was complete confusion and anger among the students due to shocking news of closure of the campus. There was police force, media from Channel 7, Daily Telegraph etc. present in front of college campus.

The students were addressed on behalf of UIA and were offered all possible assistance. It was emphasized that the community organizations like UIA are there to assist the students. Students were advised to choose their representatives who will be attending any meetings with the relevant departments and Ministries to get an early solution.

To further assist the students, office of Consul General of India, Immigration Deptt, Community Relations Commission, Deptt of Education NSW and ACPET were contacted.

The students' representatives were taken to Immigration office on 9 Nov. to meet Mr. Jim Callow, Director NSW Citizenship, Students, Student Integrity Unit and Family Residence. Mr. Callow along with two senior DIAC officers, Lorraine Sullivam and Adam Blinman provided guidelines to the student leaders for further assistance.

There is a strong feeling amongst students that Australian authorities aren't doing enough to warn about risky colleges. It is really shocking to know that collapsed college group Meridian was holding student recruitment seminars in India just two weeks before it went bust. Authorities must publish the list of "high risk" colleges so that students must be informed about the risk of studying in such colleges.

International students are really worried now as to how to trust any educational institution in Australia. Twelve education providers have closed in 2009, affecting about 4,700 students and many more are expected to close during 2010 further complicating the situation. Australian government must take concrete measures to instill confidence in International students.

On behalf of UIA, we strongly appeal to the Australian authorities that affected students must be transfer to other colleges without further delay. We are getting regular feedback from the students who are being adjusted in other Institutions by ACPET.

UIA will further provide a platform to the students by organizing a meeting in UIA office, Parramatta. International students affected by the closure of Meridian Colleges should contact Dr Rohitas Batta Chair UIA Students & Community Liaison Committee on his mobile 0411478103 or e mail: battark@hotmail.com for any assistance.

United Indians Associations (www.uia.org.au) an umbrella body for 24 member Indian organizations, which is the face of multicultural Australia strongly stands with international students as their local guardians in Australia.

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For further information or comment please contact:

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