



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

ABN 56 436 329 807 * Reg No Y 2133 744 * Phone 02 9635 5583
Suite G5, Connection Arcade, 162-172 Church St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
Postal Address: PO Box 575, Strathfield, NSW 2135 Australia

www.uia.org.au

Press Release June 24, 2010

UIA raises the issue of Visa Capping Bill with Federal Government

United Indians Association held a meeting with Minister for Immigration The Hon Chris Evans, The Hon Laurie Ferguson MP and The Hon Julie Owens MP on 22 June 2010 in Canberra and raised the issue of the proposed Visa Capping Bill & other migration changes. Submission was made about the impact of these changes on the International Students.

UIA urged the Government to:

- Continue the consultation process with the community to smoothen the impact of any migration changes upon the students
- Review the Visa Capping Bill and prolong the consultation process for at least six months or more to fully understand the financial and social impact on the Australian economy.
- Make sufficient transitional arrangements for the students affected by the changes in SOL as:
 - a. To consider students working in their areas of specialisation for GSM applications rather than pushing them to apply through the ENS scheme
 - b. The duration of 885 Visa be increased from 18 months to 3 years
 - c. To reduce the salary threshold for ENS from \$45,000 to \$25,000
 - d. To consider those applications that do not come under the new SOL for GSM visas in regional/rural Australia.

The minister was also urged to review the current visa approval process in Indian visa centres as a large number of visas are currently being rejected.

The Hon Laurie Ferguson was in support of better transitional arrangements and Minister Evans also shared the sentiments with the community. Minister Evans advised that he would respond to the delegation soon and the Government would continue to hold consultations with the UIA over the coming few months.

UIA delegation included President Aruna Chandrala, Secretary Dr Moninder Singh and Joint Treasurer Amarinder Bajwa. Mr. Immanuel Selvaraj former Student Union President and Mr. Harish Velji President of Sub Continent Friends of Labor facilitated the meeting.

The delegation also met with The Hon Julia Gillard MP and presented a memo to her Chief Education Advisor Ms Rondah Rietweld and discussed the impact of migration changes on the education industry.

UIA congratulates The Hon Julia Gillard upon becoming the first female Prime Minister of Australia and looks forward to further continue the consultation process with the new Prime Minister.

For further queries please contact UIA President Aruna Chandrala at 0410 338 900 (achandrala@yahoo.com) or UIA Secretary Dr Moninder Singh at 0413 145 880 (secretaryuia@gmail.com).

