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## Department of Immigration and Border Protection

### Visa to deny permanent asylum

The axed Temporary Protection Visa for asylum seekers, which is reviled by human rights activists, has been effectively reintroduced by the Abbott government under the guise of an existing visa as it continues to bolster its tough stance on border protection. The TPV has been widely criticised for its cruel and degrading treatment of asylum seekers since it was first introduced. Now, under the “temporary humanitarian concern” visa, the conditions are virtually the same. Asylum seekers will not be permitted to apply for family reunions, nor will they be able to settle in Australia permanently. This will also retrospectively apply to the 20,000 asylum seekers who have arrived by boat and are waiting on bridging visas.

“The Senate’s actions in disallowing TPV regulations has meant that the government has had to look at existing temporary option that achieve the same outcome,” a spokeswoman for Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said. “For people already traumatised by their refugee journey, living on a temporary humanitarian visa brings uncertainty, unfairness and fear for the safety of family members in dangerous and desperate circumstances,” said Paul Power, chief executive of the Refugee Council of Australia.

<http://newsstore.fairfax.com.au/apps/viewDocument.ac;jsessionid=B18AEDE9C85858BB7BC953B464790EF3?sy=afr&pb=all ffx&dt=selectRange&dr=1month&so=relevance&sf=text&sf=headline&rc=10&rm=200&sp=brs&cls=482&clsPage=1&docID=SMH140208G16P44AH2ND>

## Commonwealth of Australia Bills

### **Migration Amendment (Regaining Control Over Australia's Protection Obligations) Bill 2013 – C2013B00223**

Date	4 Dec 2013
Chamber	House of Representatives
Status	Before Senate
Portfolio	Immigration and Border Protection
Summary	Amends the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> to: remove the criterion for the grant of a protection visa on the bases of the complementary protection grounds; and make consequential amendments.

### **Migration Amendment Bill 2013**

Date	12 Dec 2013
Chamber	House of Representatives
Status	Before Senate
Portfolio	Immigration and Border Protection
Summary	Addresses recent court and tribunal decisions by amending the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> to: clarify that a decision on review, or a visa refusal, cancellation or revocation decision made by the minister or his delegate, is taken to be made on the day and at the time when a record of it is made; clarify that a person in the migration zone who has previously been refused a protection visa, or who held a protection visa that was cancelled, is prohibited from applying for a further protection visa; and make it a criterion for the grant of a protection visa that the applicant is not assessed by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation to be a risk to security.

### **Tribunal in refusing to adjourn**

A visa applicant sought to review by Tribunal of decision of Minister's delegate to refuse skilled visa on basis that delegate was not satisfied the applicant had competent English – s363(1)(b) of *Migration Act 1958* (Cth) gave Tribunal power to adjourn review of decision. The Tribunal had agreed to wait until 31 December 2012 to receive the results of the visa applicant's further tests for competent English before making its decision. The visa applicant notified Tribunal on 1 January 2013 of the results of the tests but said he was going to re-apply for a re-mark of the test results. The Tribunal declined to grant additional time on 3 January 2013 and proceeded to make its decision on 11 January 2013.

The Court made the following comments:

If a proportionality analysis were undertaken (cf *Li297* ALR 225; [2013] HCA 18 at [30], [74]), it could be said that the exercise of power to refuse a short adjournment in these circumstances was disproportionate to the Tribunal's conduct of the review to that point, to what was at stake for the first respondent, and what he might reasonably have hoped to secure through a re-mark.

The question for the Court is whether, when the Tribunal refused to exercise its power to adjourn the review it was conducting in respect of the applicant's application for a visa, the Tribunal's exercise of power was legally unreasonable. The Court said that there was no evidence about any factual reason why the Tribunal needed to make a decision in early January 2013. It further said that there was no prejudice to anyone from a short adjournment of the review, but there was significant and inevitable exercise of power to refuse a short adjournment were refused. The Court held that the exercise of power to refuse a short adjournment in these circumstances was disproportionate to the Tribunal's conduct of the review.

### **The Migration Amendment Bill 2013 (Cth) (Regaining Control Over Australia's Protection Obligations)**

The current Liberal Government has introduced the Migration Amendment (Regaining Control Over Australia's Protection Obligations) Bill 2013 (Cth) into Parliament on 4 December 2013. If the Bill is enacted, it would remove provisions in the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) introduced in March 2012 that enable the people who face a real risk of significant harm such as execution, torture, inhuman, degrading and cruel treatment if they returned to their home countries to apply for a protection visa under the "complementary protection" regime.

### **A Just Australia**

Detaining children is not the Australian way. At the end of 2013, there were 1,028 children in closed detention facilities with another 116 children detained on Nauru. In the past three months, the average time spent by asylum seekers, including children, in detention has grown from 105 to 201 days. We know that mandatory detention damaged the mental health of children. Children living in detention are isolated, bored and denied any opportunity to visit the beach, the playground or library. Some have limited access to education. We also know the Australian Government has proven and successful alternative to detention at its disposal. In 2006, children were moved out of immigration detention centres and into community arrangements. But in recent years, the number children in detention has continued, reaching a peak of 1992 in July 2013. The Commission's inquiry is an important opportunity to raise public awareness about this practice and lobby Members of Parliament for immediate change.

AJA Bulletin – 7 February 2014

### **Manus Island Detention Centre**

Serious questions have been raised about Australia's responsibility to asylum seekers held in offshore detention centres after violent clashes on Manus Island that left once asylum seeker dead, another shot and scores of others severely injured. One asylum seeker from Lebanon who is in the Manus Island compound wrote in a Facebook message that the violence had started again. "Tonight polices and g4s attack us again. Many people in the yard. Injure please we need one to help us. May be till morning they will kill us. We are human or animls." The Refugee Rights Action Network's Victoria Martin said: "the attack was a massacre. It was a pre-meditated attack on unarmed and defenceless asylum seekers some of which have escaped war and are now being put back into, what is essentially a war zone. Manus Island is lawless. These are dangerous people," she said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/one-person-dead-others-seriously-injured-during-violent-manus-island-clashes-20140218-32x3k.html>

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison identified the asylum seeker who was killed as 23 year-old Reza Barati, who arrived on Christmas Island last July and had been transferred to Manus Island in late August. He said Mr Barati's body was being moved to Port Moresby with a police escort to "maintain the integrity of evidence". An autopsy will be conducted in Port Moresby with assistance from Australia. He also said Australian diplomats had conveyed "the deep sympathies of the Australian government to the family of the deceased". Minister Scott Morrison has advised that his own conduct will be subject to an internal review, which will also take in the role of his officers, the private company charged with security at the detention centre, G4S, and PNG authorities.

<http://www.smh.au/federal-politics/political-news/manus-island-the-cell-immigration-did-not-want-you-to-see-20140221-33720.html>

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/scott-morrison-knew-he-was-wrong-on-brawl-death-20140224-33d5f.html>

### **DIBP threat letters causing mass panic**

Potentially thousands of international students are in line to receive one of the Immigration Departments (DIBP) "Please explain letters", letters regarding a breach of Condition 8516 on their student visas.

One education provider reports of being inundated by students in a panic over the letters sent out by the DIBP. The letters are clearly designed to instil fear in students with the threat of visa cancellation imminent if the DIBP is not satisfied with individual student responses. The tone of these letters are causing great concern within certain education providers who are not listed for Streamline Visa Processing (SVP) who have thousands of international students transferring to their higher education degrees from providers who are SVP listed. Stephen Nagle the Director of Holmes Institute Sydney, is greatly concerned about the manner these letter have been sent out to many of his students. He thinks 8516 is a violation of the student rights as consumers and wants to know "who will pay the refund of tuition fees that the students have paid? Who will give them credit for the subjects completed? How can immigration apply this condition on students retrospectively?" It is a valid point for many of the students who are receiving these letters, they have nearly completed their Bachelor degree with only a semester or two to go. Now they are being told after such a long time has passed that they are in breach of Condition 8516. Most do not know how to respond to the letters they have received and are under stress that their visa may be cancelled.

When international students arrive in Australia to study they must stay with the education provider for at least 6 months. After this time frame has elapsed they are free to change their providers and normally do not need to change their student visa unless they change to a different level of education, such as Degree to Vocational Diploma or Certificate courses.

Immigration News – Volume 282 – published 29 January 2014

### **Aussie visa ban**

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop will seek clarification on Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill's plans to ban visas on arrival for Australian visitors. According to PNG media outlets, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has confirmed the National Executive Council (NEC), a cabinet-like body, approved the move last week. Mr O'Neill denies the plan discriminates against Australians. "There is no discrimination whatsoever," Mr O'Neill told the Port Moresby-based Post Courier. "All Australians travelling to PNG have to get a visa before arrival, except for those Australian who are travelling by

boat to ports like Kokopo or Tabubil, who will get a visa on arrival because of the difficulties in obtaining them beforehand.

“We have similar arrangements with other countries and we will make sure similar arrangements are in place for other world partners. It is the same arrangement. It’s called reciprocal rights.” The move follows a threat from Mr O’Neill in November to withdraw visas-on-arrival arrangements with Australia unless Australia reciprocated. In recent years, there has been tension between Port Moresby and Canberra over what Mr O’Neill has called unfair visa restrictions on his countrymen. A spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said Foreign Minister Julie Bishop would seek clarification on the issue. “Australia has a universal visa requirement for all non-citizens intending to enter Australia,” the DFAT spokesperson said in a statement. “This is a fundamental element of our border controls. Australia does not operate a visa waiver program for any country.”

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/png-pressing-ahead-with-aussie-visa-ban/story-e6frfku9-1226806954883>

### **Celebrating Australian citizenship**

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has launched a yearlong social media campaign to kick off the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australian citizenship, highlighting the unique stories of those who have recently become Australians.

More than 4.5 million people have become Australian citizens over the past 65 years. A spokesman said the social media campaign would both share journeys of those who have adopted Australia in the past 65 years and focus on those taking the final step in their migrant journey.

“Throughout the year the department will publish a web series *The Pledge*, which will provide an insight into the citizenship journeys of Australians from different walks of life. In addition, we are encouraging new citizens to share their citizenship story on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, using the #AusPledge hashtag, which will map our new citizens around the country throughout the year.”

The first story of *The Pledge* series featured former Spanish celebrity chef, Miguel Maestre, who said he struck up a romance with Australia after sparks flew at an Edinburgh restaurant with an Aussie waitress – his now wife. “I believe when you are a citizen, it’s just that little last step, that just clicks and you’re so proud and happy to just be a part of what is our amazing beautiful country Australia.”

“Australia is a patchwork of cultures and stories – this campaign aims to showcase the variety of journeys Australia’s citizens have experienced.”

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/celebrating-australian-citizenship-history-with-a-modern-twist>

### **Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority**

Ethical profession – Empowered customers – Engaged stakeholders

This guide has information about:

- The migration advice profession
- The functions of the Authority
- The legislation regulating the migration advice profession

- What a client can reasonably expect from a registered migration agent
- Complaint procedures

Registered migration agents are required to provide the Consumer Guide (in English) to clients after agreeing to do work for them, but before starting that work. To help clients who would prefer to read the Consumer Guide in a language other than English, we have translated the guide into 30 community languages.

The guide can be found at - [https://www.mara.gov.au/media/152338/consumer\\_guide\\_english.pdf](https://www.mara.gov.au/media/152338/consumer_guide_english.pdf)  
<https://www.mara.gov.au/news-and-publications/publications/consumer-protection/>

### **International sector on the rise**

The international education sector has finally taken a turn for the better with new visa data showing marked improvements in both applications and grants.

The introduction of streamlined visa processing is driving reinvigorated demand for places, with universities exclusively accounting for the change in fortune. Higher education accounted for 42.1 per cent of student visa applications.

“The data is clearly showing that a maturity in the new visa system is coming through.” The Indian and Chinese markets in particular have bounced back after four years of decline.

<http://theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/international-sector-on-the-rise/story-e6frgcjx-1226801717642>

### **Underpaid 457 visa workers**

Bosses of a Chinese noodle franchise failed to pay workers on 457 visas close to \$650,000 over the last three years, court documents from the workplace regulator show.

Six Chinese cooks and kitchen supervisors employed at Yummy Noodle Box takeaway shops in Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst as well as Bundaberg, Queensland, between July 2010 and March last year are collectively owed \$642,311. The legal action against W.X.Z. Enterprises and Xin Tai Xu and Xin Chun Xu, who both determined pay rated at the company, after employees complained.

The men are accused of paying a flat weekly wage as low as \$530, despite some of the employees working for more than 60 hours a week. Weekend penalty rates, public holiday and overtime pay and leave entitlements were withheld. A Chinese man who worked at a Dubbo store was short-changed \$189,000. A male head cook who paid utilities, paid employees and ordered stock, is owed \$129,000, while his Bathurst store colleague is owed \$125,000.

Last financial year, the workplace authority obtained \$1.4 million in entitlements for underpayment for 2018 visa workers and \$371,000 for 259 complainants holding 457 visas.

[www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/noodle-business-operators-underpaid-457-visa-workers-almost-650000-20140120-314vi.html](http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/noodle-business-operators-underpaid-457-visa-workers-almost-650000-20140120-314vi.html)

### **Australia-Indonesia ties deteriorating**

Fresh spying allegations and stalled talks on a joint code of conduct are further damaging Australia's relations with Indonesia.

Jakarta has expressed dissatisfaction with Australia's intelligence gathering after new claims that Australia's Defence Signals Directorate offered its US counterpart information on trade talks with Indonesia last year. Prime Minister Tony Abbott won't confirm the report but has defended spying on its "very good friend" Indonesia, arguing intelligence is gathered in the interest of Australian citizens.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa has criticised that response, saying it is "a little but too much" to argue this latest activity involving talks about shrimp trade was done in the interest of saving lives. Deputy Opposition Leader Tanya Plibersek says it is clear there are serious issues in relations with Indonesia that need to be addressed.

Mr Natelagawa has also lashed out at Australia's border protection policies, an issue which he is due to raise with visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry. Mr Abbott has expressed frustration about the lack of progress on negotiations for a new joint code of conduct with Indonesia, which Jakarta wants finalised before it will lift a temporary ban on people-smuggling co-operation.

"It's clear that the discussions about a code of communication between Indonesia has stalled and the relationship has deteriorated," Ms Plibersek said.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/austindon-ties-deteriorating-plibersek-20140218-32wws.html>

### **Indonesia steps up protests against Australia's border protection policies**

Indonesia has added to its protests against the Abbott government's border protection policies, hauling Australia's ambassador into the foreign affairs ministry for a dressing down.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said he had told ambassador Greg Moriarty in a meeting this week that Australia's use of lifeboats to return asylum seekers was an "unacceptable" escalation of its border protection policy, Indonesian news magazine *Tempo* reported on its website. Fairfax Media has independently confirmed the meeting took place. The use of lifeboats has been a key development in Australia's boat turnback policy – a policy Indonesia vehemently opposed. Dr Natalegawa said the use of lifeboats represented a more serious violation of Australia's commitments to the refugee convention than its previous policies. He said Australian ships should take the asylum seekers on-board for processing. Customs and border protection chief Mike Pezzullo has acknowledged there is a "public interest" in releasing at least parts of a report into how Australian ships accidentally breached Indonesian territory.

Mr Pezzullo told the ABC, "There are going to be other matters that are in the public interest to discuss. That is to say: how did this inadvertent transgression occur? Why did it occur and what remedial action needs to be taken to ensure that it's not going to occur again?" Prime Minister Tony Abbott reiterated an apology for breaching Indonesian territory on Fairfax radio, saying the incursions were a "serious mistake". "The Indonesians have accepted our apology, but it's a serious mistake, it should never have happened and as far as is humanly possible, we'll ensure it never happens again," Mr Abbott said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/indonesia-steps-up-protests-against-australias-border-protection-policies-20140214-32rdo.html>

## Legislative Changes

### ALRC releases copyright report

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) released the final report for its inquiry, *Copyright and the Digital Economy*. The ALRC was asked to consider whether current copyright exceptions are adequate and appropriate in the digital era. Fair use is a defence to copyright infringement that essentially asks of any particular use: Is this fair? Fair use is found in a number of countries, notably the United States, and it builds on existing Australian laws that allow the fair use of copyright material for purposes such as research, study and reporting the news. ALRC President Professor Rosalind Croucher said “The 30 recommendations in this report are designed to allow for a more principles-based and less prescriptive approach to copyright law.”

### Changes to dealing with IP Australia

IP Australia informed customers in October 2013 about important changes taking place to the customer transaction and enquiry channels during February and June 2014. This is a reminder that these changes are taking place in the near future.

The dates and channels are listed below:

- The ‘assist’ email and over the phone payment service are planned for decommissioning on 15 February 2014.
- The corporate fax and Australia Post Lodgement Points are planned for decommissioning on 4 June 2014.

For more information please see <http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media/latest-news-listing/transition-date-channels>  
(<http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/5867/2ddgz2f/1953629/10d5d3w0y.html>)

## Australian Federal Police

### Eligo National Task Force

*This is a joint media release with the Australian Federal Police, Australian Crime Commission and Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre.*

The Australian Crime Commission has unveiled a year-long covert money laundering investigation codenamed Eligo following a record \$5.7 million cash seizure in Sydney recently.

The Eligo National Task Force, established in 2012 as an Australian Crime Commission-led special investigation into the use of alternative remittance and informal value transfer systems by serious and organised crime, has seized more than \$580 million worth of drugs and assets, including \$26 million in cash.

The task force has also disrupted 18 serious and organised crime groups and identified 128 criminal targets previously unknown to law enforcement placed on the Australian Crime Commission’s National Criminal Target List, and include targets operating in more than 20 countries.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Tony Negus said Task Force Eligo was having a significant impact.

He said the high level of sophistication and international reach of these syndicate provides a disturbing picture of the transnational nature of serious and organised crime; “however these criminals are now firmly in our sight, and we will continue to target their activities to remove the incentive and reward for organised crime in this country.”

[http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2014/january/task-force-eligo-generates-more-than-\\$580-million-in-cash-drugs-and-assets.aspx](http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2014/january/task-force-eligo-generates-more-than-$580-million-in-cash-drugs-and-assets.aspx)

## Human Rights

### UN finds Australia guilty in 150 cases

Australia has been found guilty of violations of international law over the indefinite detention of 46 refugees in one of the most damning assessments of human rights in this country by a United Nations committee.

Consistent with Australia’s treaty obligations, the government has been given 180 days to assure the committee that it has acted on the recommendations and taken steps to prevent “similar violations in future”. The UN’s Human Rights Committee concluded that the continued detention of the asylum seekers, was “cumulatively inflicting serious psychological harm” and in breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The committee’s investigation followed a complaint lodged on behalf of the refugees in August 2011 by Ben Saul, of the Sydney Centre for International Law, who said the finding proved the “grave lawlessness” of Australian refugee policy. “It is a major embarrassment for Australia, which is a member of the Security Council and often criticises human rights in other countries. Australia should do the right thing by respecting its international obligations and treating the refugees decently,” Professor Saul told Fairfax Media.

The committee, made up of 18 human rights experts, found that, whatever justification there may have been for an initial detention, the government had not demonstrated on an individual basis that the continuous indefinite detention of the refugees was justified.

While the committee has consistently found fault with Australia’s system of mandatory immigration detention, Professor Saul said, this finding went much further. “It is the largest complaint ever upheld against Australia.”

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/federal-election-2013/un-finds-australia-guilty-in-150-cases-20130822-2sei6.html>

### Imam charged with solemnising underage marriage

Police have arrested and charged an Imam accused of conducting the marriage of a 12-year-old girl in the Hunter Valley this year.

Detectives from the Child Abused Squad arrested the 35-year-old Pakistan-born man. They charged him with solemnisation of a marriage by an unauthorised person.

Police will allege he agreed to conduct a ceremony after he was approached by a 26-year-old man, who was eager to marry the girl. This Lebanese man who is living in Australia on a student visa, has been charged with 25 counts of having sexual intercourse with an underage child.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/imam-charged-with-solemnising-underage-marriage-20140211-32dqn.html>

### **Underage marriages ‘widespread’**

The case of a father who allowed his 12-year-old daughter to marry “for love” may be one of at least 250 small incidents across the nation in the past two years, a legal expert has warned. National Children’s and Youth Law Centre director Matthew Keely said a recent study revealed that there were 80 such cases in one capital city alone, meaning the actual figure was certain to be even higher.

His call for more awareness came after the arrest of a 61-year-old man who allegedly allowed his 12-year-old daughter to be “married” in his Hunter Valley home this year. Police allege he allowed the child bride to be “joined in an illegal union” and start a sexual relationship with a 26-year-old man visiting from Lebanon. Magistrate Caleb Franklin found he had total disregard for Australian law and would not permit his release.

His alleged actions were condemned by the Australian National Imams council. Grand Mufti of Australia Ibrahim Salem expressed his shock and said “that such behaviour is to be rejected and condemned from a legal and ethical prospective.”

Sydney Morning Herald – Thursday, 13 February 2014

### **Underage marriages are illegal in Australia.**

#### **New Australian law reform inquiry to focus on freedoms**

The Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, has asked the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to review Commonwealth legislation to identify provisions that unreasonably encroach upon traditional rights, freedoms and privileges.

He said that the review will be one of the most comprehensive and important ever undertaken by the ALRC. “This is a major instalment towards the issue of human rights in Australia”. “I have asked the Commission to identify where traditional rights, freedoms and privileges are unnecessarily compromised within the legal structure of the Commonwealth. Where encroachments exist, the Commission will determine whether they are justified.

“For too long we have seen freedoms of the individual diminish and become devalued. Freedoms are some of the most fundamental of all human rights. They underpin the principles of democracy and we cannot take them for granted.”

The Attorney-General has asked the Commission to provide its report by 1 December 2014.

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Mediareleases/Pages/2013/Fourth%20quarter/11December2013-NewAustralianLawReformInquiryToFocusOnFreedoms.aspx>

## Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### **Australia co-authors Syrian humanitarian aid plan**

The United Nations Security Council has agreed on a resolution co-authored by Australia that seeks to extend humanitarian aid to millions of civilians caught up in the increasingly brutal Syrian civil war.

So far three Security Council resolutions on Syria have failed, but Australia's UN Ambassador, Gary Quinlan, says this resolution has more chance of succeeding. "The other resolutions were aimed at achieving a political solution [to the war] or imposing sanctions, this one is about humanitarian assistance." Throughout the three-year-long war only one other resolution has passed. That resolution was adopted last September under Australia's presidency of the 15-member Security Council. Ambassador Quinlan said there is now agreement from all the council's members, including Russia, that the humanitarian situation in Syria has spun out of control and that a UN resolution is needed.

"It is a nation of about Australia's population size and 10 million people need critical humanitarian assistance," he said. "A third of the housing has been destroyed, there are people in basements and ruins and caves."

<http://smh.com.au/world/australia-coauthors-syrian-humanitarian-aid-plan-20140221-hvddb.html>

### **Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the Republic of Korea**

Australia has concluded negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Republic of Korea, our third-largest goods export market and fourth-largest trading partner. Building stronger trading relationships in Asia was a key election commitment and part of the Coalition's plan to build a strong, prosperous economy. As a result of the Agreement, tariffs will be eliminated on Australia's major exports to Korea and there will be significant new market openings in services and investment. As part of the FTA, tariffs of up to 300 per cent will be eliminated on key Australian agricultural exports.

The FTA will also provide new market opportunities in Korea for Australian services in education, telecommunications and a range of professional services including financial, accounting and legal services. The benefits of the FTA start flowing immediately and will be long-lasting.

[http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2013/ar\\_mr\\_131205.html](http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2013/ar_mr_131205.html)

### **Multiple entry visas**

Chinese business visitors and our tourism sector will benefit from increased flexibility offered by new three-year multiple entry visitor visas, Minister of Trade and Investment the Hon Andrew Rob and Minister for Immigration and Border Protection the Hon Scott Morrison said today.

"Chinese business visitors will now be eligible to apply for a three year multiple entry visa, increasing the prospect of repeat visits to Australia, which would be warmly welcomed by our tourism sector," he said. "These changes will support the government's ambitious trade and investment agenda and increase the opportunities to do business with China. It is our largest source of business visitors, representing 18.5 per cent of all applications in the business visitor stream."

[http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2014/ar\\_mr\\_140207.html](http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2014/ar_mr_140207.html)

## **Foreign investment**

Senior Australian commercial diplomats from posts around the world have met with Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb to discuss ways of increasing foreign investment.

The Investment Commissioners are stationed in Austrade's offices in London, Frankfurt, New York, New Delhi, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo. During their visit they will also brief federal government agencies, state and territory governments, industry associations and bilateral business chambers on the opportunities and outlook for investment from their markets.

Mr Robb said productive foreign investment is critical to the growth of our economy, enhances innovation as well as having a positive impact on job creation and skills development. "Australia is not the only country competing for global investment flows and we need to remain competitive."

[http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2013/ar\\_mr\\_131129.html](http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2013/ar_mr_131129.html)

## **New Smartraveller business travel advice**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has launched a Smartraveller business travel web page to advise Australian business operating overseas.

Many Australian businesses are now global in scope and even small businesses are operating in remote locations. Consequently, the ability to work safely in a variety of situations and locations is more critical than ever. The Smartraveller advice for business has been created to raise awareness of the importance of travel planning and risk managements as an integral element in managing overseas travel, even for short visits to locations considered low-risk.

The new web page emphasises the need for Australians and Australian companies operating abroad to understand the local threat environment, adopt robust protective security measures and develop reliable evacuation options.

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/media/releases/department/2013/dfat-release-20131213.html>

## **Chinese visitors experience tourism as drawcard**

Chinese visitors continue to rate Australia highly as a tourism destination, according to new research by Tourism Research Australia based on a survey of 3,600 Chinese visitors upon their departure from Australia last year.

The survey findings demonstrated the quality of the Australian tourism industry. "The Coalition Government has a firm agenda to capture a greater share of the Chinese tourism market. We are also committed to seeking further Foreign Direct Investment into the Australian tourism industry so we can develop high-yield luxury tourism accommodation that leverages our natural advantages."

Chinese visitors overwhelmingly said that Australia's natural environment and liveability were the main reasons they would recommend Australia to family and friends.

[http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2014/ar\\_mr\\_140128.html](http://trademinister.gov.au/releases/2014/ar_mr_140128.html)

**A.P.B. Education**  
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Passing an IELTS test is now an essential requirement for all applicant for General Skilled 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
- Speaking
- Writing
- Listening

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

Contact: Adrian Bitel on (02) 0286 8700 or Mobile: 0412 656 026

**Parish Patience Immigration**

Lawyers  
Level 1, 338 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9286 8700

Fax: +61 2 9283 3323

Email: [ppmail@ppilaw.com.au](mailto:ppmail@ppilaw.com.au)

[www.ppilaw.com.au](http://www.ppilaw.com.au)

