



Student visa applications plummet following April 2017 visa changes

As predicted the visa changes the Federal Government have introduced are going to have a devastating effect on the international student industry that currently employs over 110,000 Australians and generates \$20 billion per year for the aussie economy.

The 457/ENS/RSMS visa changes were announced on 19th April.

International students have to go through a number of steps in order to obtain a student visa to study in Australia. We have been waiting for the official June 2017 student application figures from DIBP to see the real effect of the April 2017 changes on students intentions to study in Australia.

It is devastating. From an average growth figure from November 2016 to May 2017 of 14% per month on the same period of the previous program year, numbers have plummeted for June 2017. They are down 15% from June 2016 and down a massive 29% from the growth of the previous 7 months

International student visa applications lodged in the last 8 months

2015/16	Applications	2016/17	Applications	% growth
Nov15-May16	180102	Nov16-May17	204604	14%
Jun-16	43622	Jun-17	37093	-15%

7 months growth before June 2017	14%
Drop in June 2017	-15%
Comparative drop -	-29%

Our survey in May of over 500 international students around Australia found that a stunning 88% would NOT advise their overseas friends and families to choose Australia to study in. This is as a result of recent visa changes and the debacle with the Pro Rata points test system. The vast majority say they will now recommend Canada.

We asked respondents for comments and we have published 2 below that are typical of the views we received

Nicholas - *What I think every international student will agree on, especially the ones that come from a developed side of the globe and therefore have nothing more than good work opportunities to gain from Australia, is that: if the Government is not going to value and reward the money, culture, diversity and expertise international students bring in, then we will EASILY settle somewhere else. While I agree that every country must act in their own people interests, I also believe that migrants have to look after their own interests as well. Is Australia getting tougher? See ya later mate!*

Alphonsia - *The future is really scary now despite the hard work you do in this country as an international student... A big advice to family n friends back India: Better move to any other country than investing your hard earned money here on studies and other type of visas. Enough of our money we have wasted in this country and at the end what are we getting- only discrimination!*

This will have devastating effect on the 110,000 Australian jobs in the industry and our \$20 billion dollar export industry and it will get even worse over the next 12 months.

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