



Embargoed until 10.30am on Wednesday 8 March 2006

## Post graduate qualification required to become a migration agent

The Migration Agents Registration Authority (the MARA) is pleased to introduce the Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law and Practice. From July 2006 the law will require all people who want to become a migration agent, who do not hold a current legal practicing certificate, to have completed this post graduate program.

The program has been developed for the migration advice profession, in conjunction with Australian National University, Griffith University, Murdoch University, and Victoria University.

MARA Chairman, Len Holt, a migration agent himself, said: "This new post-graduate program required for entry to the profession will elevate our professional standing in the eyes of consumers, Parliamentarians and migration agent's themselves."

"The migration advice profession is an emerging profession and the new Graduate Certificate is being delivered through an innovative partnership and also represents a significant milestone in the maturation of the profession."

The delivery model for the Graduate Certificate harnesses an innovative approach by the MARA and embeds a series of common assessment items that are then used by the Universities for the awarding of the qualification and by the MARA as part of the registration process for people who want to become a migration agent. This allows a comparable national standard and will ensure a consistent level of proficiency in the migration advice profession.

The introduction of the prescribed course as a Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law & Practice increases the entry-level standards for this emerging profession and will further build on the improving perceptions of all stakeholder groups of the profession as being competent and ethical.

We congratulate the four universities who successfully won the contracts to deliver the Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law & Practice. We look forward to working closely with the four selected universities and with Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs and the new Parliamentary Secretary, The Hon. Mr. Andrew Robb, to continue to advance the standing of the migration advice profession and lead professionalism in the migration field, through raising the education benchmark for all registered migration agents.

**The MARA will sign contracts for the delivery of the Graduate Certificate with the selected universities at a Signing Ceremony on 8 March 2006 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. In attendance will be the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration & Multicultural Affairs, The Hon Andrew Robb AO, MP and representatives of each of the universities, Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs and the MARA.**

For further information or to attend the signing ceremony please contact:

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