

CDC, adapting to new changes in Australian migration

IN the competitive arena of migration consultancy, Career Development Centre (CDC) has a proven track record of what it takes to stay ahead. For nine years, CDC has been successful at providing hopeful migrants with migration consultation, which has earned the organisation a prominent place in the field. From a modest start the commitment and dedication of the staff, the innovative thinking and timely changes adopted by its administrative head has led CDC to steadily climb up the ladder to become the success story it is today. Following is an interview with CEO, CDC, Samantha Pathirage (SP).

Q: On September 1, 2007 certain changes took place in immigration policy in Australia, can you give us a brief description about it?

SP: Well to put it briefly, one of the major changes was related to the English requirement a candidate had to fulfill. And another notable change was the reduction of the visa sub classes, along with that, sponsorship opportunities also saw expansion. The visa structure was also simplified. Changes were also made in the application forms and the scheme of points at the test. It introduced the new test for the trade skilled category. These can be seen as the main changes which took place.

Q: Can these changes be seen as favourable to hopeful migrants?

SP: Certainly, this new scheme has many positive attributes and acts favourably towards professionals and academically qualified persons with degrees or diploma level qualifications. You see earlier the system restricted every applicant to be restricted to vocational or competent English where they would be able to score a maximum of 15 to 20 points on the English factor. Sadly, most had to give up their dream of greener pastures, due to lack of avenues to increase their score to reach the immigration point requirement.

This especially affected applicants who were over 40 years of

age and applicants with diploma level qualifications as they did not meet criteria owing to the age group barrier and the lower grade of recognition given to their qualification. But this new system allows them avenues to transcend such drawbacks by targeting higher points at IELTS and thereby increase their points.

Simplifying the visa structure and the forms can be viewed as a good change. In interviews we conduct we came across several candidates who had applied on



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their own, unguided and failed the visa process due to not submitting the correct forms and not selecting the correct visa sub classes. It is saddening to hear of such cases who have spent several hundred thousand on this process. But today the visa forms have been simplified and the number of visa subclasses have also been minimised.

And another very positive move seen in these changes is the increase of sponsorship opportunities.

Q: How have the applicants reacted to the new rules?

SP: What I noticed amongst our clients is that there was quick adaptation on their part to these new rules; they adjusted remarkably well. When we informed them of the requirement increase of the English competency tests, they worked even harder to get through at first attempt at the IELTS exam. What they expect from us is the necessary assistance to correctly observe the guidelines, and the dedication they put in pays off.

Q: We noticed Immigration is scheduled to conduct tests for several trade skilled occupations, such as motor mechanics, electricians, etc. How do you intend to meet this prospect?

SP: This process has been in effect since September 1, 2007. Our first batch of applications with VETASSESS has been ready for submission and involves a lot of hard work especially with regard to the relevant report preparations. We spent a great amount of time studying the threshold requirements of this new trade skill based assessment process prior to application submission. We did our best in terms of compilation and compliance with the stipulations concerned.

Q: When we spoke to a few of your clients, they appeared incredibly happy about the service they have received from you...

SP: One of the main ingredients of the formula is giving information which is 100 percent accurate. Customers must know without any doubts that they can rely on the information they receive. The manner in which an application is

handled in terms of processing it also plays a big role, and it is important to maintain a high degree of transparency along the process so as to win the trust and respect of a client.

This builds the confidence they have in us as doing a good and capable job. We also take care that they are spared unnecessary delays and we have measures to keep them abreast with developments pertaining to their application. These are some of the basic principles we maintain in order to achieve our level of customer satisfaction which is vital for any successful enterprise.

Q: CDC enjoys a good reputation and is prominent in the field of migration consultancy, so what does the future hold?

SP: Building a reputation as a credible and successful organisation is not an easy task, and developing to such a stage and status takes time and much commitment, and then to maintain such a position also takes dedication. As an organisation we want to constantly improve our strengths and plus factors. Our main objectives at present are to add features which would enhance the level of professionalism of CDC.