



Media release

Senator Chris Evans

Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

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Indian students gain automatic work right in Australia

The Australian Government has made changes to its visa system so that Indian citizens studying in Australia will be automatically eligible to work part-time during their courses.

The Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, said Indian students previously had to apply separately for permission to work part-time during their studies in Australia.

“Under new processing arrangements which come into effect from 26 April, all student visas will be granted with work rights attached, removing the need for people to make a separate application,” Senator Evans said.

“The changes mean that Indian students can now apply for part-time jobs and work for up to 20 hours per week as soon as their courses start.

“It will reduce red-tape for students wanting to work in Australia and also allow more efficient use of department resources.”

Senator Evans said the new arrangements will also cut overall student visa fees for Indian citizens.

“Applicants from India will now be charged \$AUD450 for the visa and work permission, a saving of \$AUD40 on the previous arrangements,” Senator Evans said.

The Minister said streamlined processes for Indian students applying for student visas have also been introduced.

“Successful applicants will now not need to have an Australian visa label in their passports as evidence of their visa grant,” Senator Evans said.

“Instead, their visa information will be stored electronically for access through the Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) service.

“The advantage of the online service is that it allows employers, government agencies, education providers and the visa holders themselves to check visa conditions such as the expiry date, work and study restrictions.”

Senator Evans said Australia had granted 34 146 student visas to Indian citizens in the year to June 2007.

For more information, go to www.immi.gov.au/students/whats_new.htm