



Dear _____,

July already! What a year for thinking differently about what we do and how we do it? For many, we are trying to make our good practice face to face experiences work in a remote environment. Despite best efforts, the sands are constantly shifting, and we find ourselves inventing and reinventing. For many technology skills are being developed on the run. “You’re on mute!”, a sign of busy and tired colleagues. Congratulations to you all – you’re doing an amazing job. Keep going.

A detailed update – take 5 minutes with a cup of tea.

Cheers
Margaret

CISA

The CISA 2020 National Digital Summit is 15-17th July.

The CISA National Conference award applications are open for nomination from **8.00 AM on Monday, 6th July to 11. 59 PM Sunday, 12th July**. We encourage you to apply for any of the following awards and kindly request you to encourage your colleagues to apply as well.

Awards categories are;

- Best International [Undergraduate](#) Student of the Year
- Best International [Postgraduate](#) Student of the Year
- Best International [VET/TAFE](#) Student of the year
- Best International [ELICOS](#) Student of the Year

- Best International Student Association of the Year
- Best International Student Event of the Year
- Best International Student Support Initiative of the Year
- Best Stakeholder of the Year

All the application forms for the above awards are downloadable. All completed applications along with supporting documents are to be submitted (via email) to the CISA Awards Coordinator at awardscoordinator@cisa.edu.au by **11.59 PM AEST on 12th July 2020**.

Melbourne International Student Conference

The Melbourne International Student conference takes place from the 15th July. Please check information at <http://www.internationalstudentconference.com.au/schedule/>

Time to renew your ISANA membership

If you are an existing member you will have received an email to renew your membership. A reminder that the benefits of membership include:

- Discounted registration for the annual National Conference
- Discounted registration for the National Code Tutorial
- Free and discounted attendance at local branch events and professional development
- Regular national and branch email updates
- The opportunity to provide feedback to policy developers and government agencies

<http://www.isana.org.au/isana-membership/>

National Code Tutorial

The National Code Tutorial (NCT) is an online training course designed for professionals working in the international education sector to gain knowledge and understanding of the ESOS Act and National Code 2018.

The purpose of the new online tutorial is to assist international education professionals to understand specific standards under the National Code 2018. This tutorial is especially useful as a staff training tool for those new to the international education industry or for those wishing to update their knowledge of National Code obligations.

<http://www.isana.org.au/national-code-tutorial/>

Looking for ideas and presenters

ISANA Vic/Tas is looking for presenters for online webinars for its members. Encourage a colleague to present with you. Topics you may wish to consider -

Topics – looking for presenters

- Remote counselling of under 18 students – maintaining privacy.
- Remote orientation and program induction sessions – what worked, what didn't?
- I'm an international student – it's time to change the stereotype?
- Cybersecurity and International Student • Car and home insurance – what do international Students need to know?
- Mapping the international student journey, the difference between the education sectors
- Attendance monitoring during COVID for ELICOS, Foundation and school sector -are you really present?

Building Positive Homestays

The Building Positive Homestays report is now available. It offers the international education sector a good understanding on the upsides and downsides of homestay accommodation, the preference and demographic profile of homestay users, and the practice and challenges of the homestay industry A copy of the report can be found on the [ISANA website](#)

ISANA Vic/Tas seek to host a presentation shortly on the findings – information to be sent shortly

COVID SAFE App now in five languages other than English.

The COVIDSafe app has been updated to operate in five additional languages. Languages available are Arabic, simplified and traditional Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

<http://www.isana.org.au/covidsafe-app-to-be-available-in-arabic-simplified-and-traditional-chinese-korean-and-vietnamese/>

International Students and Wage Theft

[The International Students and Wage Theft in Australia](#) report has been released.

The report draws on the Information for Impact survey of over 5,000 international students in Australia, supported by StudyNSW. It reveals that the majority are experiencing serious wage theft.

Key findings include:

- Three in four international students earned below the minimum casual wage
- One in three university Bachelor students earned less than half the minimum casual wage.

- The overwhelming majority of students who were underpaid knew the minimum wage, but most believed they were at fault for the underpayment and had broken the law by accepting below minimum wages.

The report recommends improved labour enforcement and visa protections for international students, as well as improved service provision to address exploitation. International students' vulnerability to exploitation has since intensified during COVID. MWJI has launched a new nationwide COVID-focused survey to document these and other challenges faced by international students, backpackers, refugees and other temporary migrants in Australia during this time. That survey asks about work, housing, financial insecurity, health, safety and discrimination. The survey is anonymous and available in English and Mandarin. It closes on 20 July with substantial prizes on offer.

Please help us to include the voices of as many temporary migrants as possible by **forwarding details to anyone on a temporary visa**, and **share the survey link on social media**:

<https://www.mwji.org/covidsurvey>

Racism and COVID-19

The Australian Government is currently running an information campaign to support and inform multicultural communities in response to an increase in reports of racist behaviour targeting people of Asian appearance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the campaign we are reaching out to the most affected communities through community leaders such as you.

Australia is a proud multicultural nation, united by shared values based on freedom, equality and respect for all people. Racial discrimination and abuse is against the law, contrary to our values, and damages social cohesion.

All Australians have a role to play in responding to racism, by calling it out when they see it, standing in solidarity with affected people and communities, and celebrating our rich multicultural diversity.

The Department of Home Affairs would appreciate your support sharing information about what people can do if they experience or witness racist behaviour. Information and support is available at www.australia.gov.au/helpstopracism, and in a range of community languages at <https://covid19inlanguage.homeaffairs.gov.au/racism-not-acceptable>.

To make it easier for you to spread the word, I have attached and pasted below some graphics that you might like to share with your networks through your social media channels.

Suggested social media post:

I am sharing this message from the Australian Government — please pass it on, as all of us have a role to play in helping to stop racism. Racism, in any form, is not acceptable in Australia.

That's why there are laws to protect you. If you see or experience racism, speak up. Visit www.australia.gov.au/helpstopracism.

New information by the Office of the Migration Agent Registration Authority (OMARA).

Anyone who needs immigration assistance should first check the online register of Registered Migration Agents (RMAs) <https://www.mara.gov.au> before paying for the services of a migration agent.

A Bill recently passed through Parliament –the Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Bill 2019 – that will mean lawyers will no longer need to register with Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA) to provide immigration assistance. It's important to know that this change won't actually happen for several months and, until then, lawyers still need to register with the OMARA.

Before that change happens, the Department of Home Affairs will provide more information to the community to explain how to access immigration advice under the new system.

The media release announcing the passage of the Bill is on the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs' website at: <https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/jasonwood/Pages/government-removes-unnecessary-dual-regulation-for-lawyers.aspx>

NCSEHE panel discussion: Strategies for supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of students of colour and First Nations students

EVENT DETAILS

Online via Zoom (Australia-wide times below)

23 July 2020

On Thursday 23 July, the NCSEHE will host a panel discussion with Professor James Smith (Menzies School of Health Research), Dr Bep Uink (Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre, Murdoch University) and Professor Daphne C. Watkins (University of Michigan).

OVERVIEW

COVID-19 has created a range of challenges for students and staff at universities throughout the world. These challenges have highlighted the need to support the social and emotional wellbeing of students, particularly those from minority and marginalised backgrounds where the impacts of COVID-19 have been felt disproportionately.

At the same time, we have seen national and global advocacy efforts aligned with the Black Lives Matter movement, to reduce structural and systemic racism experienced by people of colour throughout society. This has included the racism experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on a daily basis. Some of this advocacy effort has been directed to the

higher education sector, where there have been calls to acknowledge and address entrenched racism within universities, which has harmful impacts on the social and emotional wellbeing of students and staff from equity groups.

In this panel discussion, we will unpack some of these issues and the respective strategies that can be put in place to promote and strengthen the mental health, and broader social and emotional wellbeing, of students of colour. We will refer to emerging evidence from research and programs in Australia and the United States to drive this discussion.