

Australian Council of Deans of ICT

ACDICT, P.O. Box 482, Chatswood, NSW 2057 www.acdict.edu.au

Sarah Whitney 457 Integrity Review Secretariat Department of Immigration and Border Protection 457.Integrity.Review@immi.gov.au

29 May 2014

Dear Sarah,

ACDICT response to 457 Integrity Review

The panel concerned with the integrity of the 457 visa programme asked, during my discussions with the panel on Friday, May 23rd, whether ACDICT would be interested in making a late submission. Subsequently I sent an email asking for opinions and any experiences related to the 457 visa program. As a result of the responses to the community consultation, I would like to make two points, both related to Friday's conversation.

None of the university representatives reported any involvement with any training/re-training related to passing on skills as required for 457 visas. It underlines the point made that at best, the universities are neutral on the scheme, and are probably negative due to removal of some training possibilities.

One member made an insightful comment about the lack of investment in training by local industry. As evidenced by many job advertisements requiring very specific and narrow ICT skill sets, industry appears at times to use the 457 visa option rather than train local staff or hire broadly skilled local ICT Professionals.

I will be happy to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Professor Leon Sterling President, Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology PVC (Digital Frontiers) Swinburne University of Technology Isterling@swin.edu.au (03) 9214 8491