

## Response to Dandenong Leader article published August 18, 2020

Lawson College Australia is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and is registered under the National Vocational Education and Regulator Act 2011 (NVR Act) and under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act). The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is the national regulator. Lawson College Australia has been in operation for seven years.

Lawson College Australia prides itself on putting the health and well-being of its students first, acting with integrity and supporting a positive student experience.

Lawson College Australia refutes all claims made in the Dandenong Leader article titled '*Lawson College Dandenong: 'Former students allege deportation threats, poor facilities.'*' These claims are unsubstantiated and untrue.

In response to claims about our facilities, fees and visas:

- Lawson College Australia provides all students with modern learning environment and the facilities are ASQA approved.
- Lawson College Australia is open and transparent about the course fees. These are readily available to all prospective students via our website and included in all Letters of Offer before students enrol at Lawson College.
- Lawson College Australia acts in accordance with its policies, as listed on the website.
- Issues relating to student visas and residency are dealt with by the Department of Home Affairs. As an RTO governed under the ESOS Act, Lawson college Australia is obliged to notify the Department if a student is in breach of the student visa conditions as imposed by the Department.
- Lawson College Australia offers payment plans to students who seek assistance in payment of tuition fees, and only uses debt collectors as a last resort. Lawson College Australia has not taken legal action against any student who has not paid their overdue fees, especially in the current economic environment.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic Lawson College Australia offered generous 'Student Relief Packages' for all the students to provide support and assistance.
- Lawson College Australia also contributed and supported the Australian community along with international students by partnering with esteemed organisations like 'The Salvation Army' and 'FareShare'.

Lawson College Australia informed the Dandenong Leader about these facts before it published its story. Lawson College Australia is therefore disappointed that the Dandenong Leader chose to publish baseless allegations which are hurtful and damaging to us and more importantly, to our hard-working staff and committed students.

Lawson College Australia takes any complaint about the quality of our facilities, standard of teaching or fees very seriously. We strive to create an open, vibrant and inclusive learning environment for each of our enrolled students. At the same time Lawson College Australia is deeply humbled in providing support and welfare to its students, and the community at large during the pandemic crisis.



Vikram Sharma  
CEO

