

## Important information for students of GEOS Perth

**GEOS Perth (St Marks International College) has closed** and will no longer teach overseas students.

English Australia (EA) and Western Australian Private Education and Training Industry Association (WAPETIA) Tuition Assurance Schemes will ensure that affected students are placed in a similar course at a member ELICOS college in Perth as soon as possible.

Eleven ELICOS colleges are assisting in the placement of students.

EA, WAPETIA, the WA Department of Education Services (DES), the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and The Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) are working together to facilitate the placement of students.

Meetings have been held advising students of their rights, and assisting them with the completion of paperwork.

As at Sunday 7 February 2010, all affected GEOS Perth students had been contacted via email advising them of their alternate ELICOS college placement.

Under the placement arrangements, students should not be required to pay any additional amount to undertake a portion of the new provider's course for which they have already paid money in advance to their current institution.

For more information, please refer to the **EA Tuition Assurance Scheme Activation** document below or visit [www.englishaustralia.com.au](http://www.englishaustralia.com.au)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mike Ryan, Executive Director of Perth Education City  
Tel: (+618) 6253 7491 Email: [mike.ryan@pec-wa.com.au](mailto:mike.ryan@pec-wa.com.au)



## EA Tuition Assurance Scheme Activation for:

ELICOS courses delivered by the GEOS Group including:

- GEOS National English Academy Pty Ltd  
t/a St Marks International College Sydney (00045J)
- GEOS Brisbane Pty Ltd  
t/a Queensland College of English (00085A)
- GEOS Cairns Pty Ltd  
t/a Cairns College of English (01412E)
- GEOS Perth Pty Ltd  
t/a St Marks International College Perth (01620G)
- GEOS Melbourne Pty Ltd  
t/a GEOS Melbourne College of English (01698G)
- GEOS Gold Coast Pty Ltd  
t/a GEOS Queensland College of English Gold Coast (01825F)
- GEOS Adelaide Pty Ltd  
t/a GEOS Adelaide College of English (02776B)

English Australia (EA) was advised on 1 February 2010 of the closure of the above GEOS English Colleges.

The EA Tuition Assurance Scheme (TAS) process has therefore been activated due to the inability of the college to continue delivering courses to students.

It is important for creditors, students and other people affected by the closure of this college to note that:

- EA is not the GEOS Group of Colleges;
- EA is not the Administrator; and
- EA does not have access to student fees, or other money from the GEOS Group of Colleges.

However, EA does manage the TAS which covers the **ELICOS programs** delivered by the GEOS Group of Colleges.

Shortly EA will be providing students with information on how they can be assisted via the EA TAS. Our priority is to assist students with a suitable alternative placement as soon as possible.

Seven student meetings have been organised to inform students of their rights and responsibilities under the legislation. EA will also inform students of the ways EA can assist them. Students should bring documentation with them to the meeting, including a copy of their Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and receipts of payments made for tuition.

Note: These meetings are for only for students of the GEOS Group of Colleges. Only students with current student identification will be admitted to the meeting.

### *Leading, supporting and representing the international English language industry in Australia*

Level 3, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

PO Box 1437 Darlinghurst NSW 1300 Australia

T +61 2 9264 4700

F +61 2 9264 4313

E [easec@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:easec@englishaustralia.com.au)

[www.englishaustralia.com.au](http://www.englishaustralia.com.au)

## GEOS Melbourne

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 2.00 pm  
Venue Address: Melbourne Town Hall, 90/120 Swanston St, Melbourne

## GEOS Perth

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 2:00 pm  
Venue Address: Perth Convention Centre (Riverside Room) - Riverside Drive (Perth City)

## GEOS Adelaide

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 2:30 pm  
Venue Address: Theatre, Commonwealth Centre, 55 Currie Street

## GEOS Sydney (all college campuses)

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 11:00 am  
Venue Address: Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street

## GEOS Brisbane

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 9:00 am  
Venue Address: Brisbane Convention Centre, Room M3, Merivale St, South Brisbane

## GEOS Gold Coast

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 2:30 pm  
Venue Address: Watermark Hotel & Spa, 3032 Gold Coast Hwy

## GEOS Cairns

### Student Meeting Details:

Meeting Date: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Meeting Time: 10:30 am  
Venue Address: The Sebel, 17 Abbott Street, Cairns

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## Contacting EA

Students should contact EA in writing. Please use the email address for your city.

Email: [geosydney@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geosydney@englishaustralia.com.au)  
[geosmelbourne@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geosmelbourne@englishaustralia.com.au)  
[geosperth@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geosperth@englishaustralia.com.au)  
[geosadelaide@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geosadelaide@englishaustralia.com.au)  
[geosbrisbane@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geosbrisbane@englishaustralia.com.au)  
[geosgoldcoast@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geosgoldcoast@englishaustralia.com.au)  
[geoscairns@englishaustralia.com.au](mailto:geoscairns@englishaustralia.com.au)

Fax: 02 9264 4313

Post: PO Box 1437, Darlinghurst, NSW 1300

### **Please note: EA can only respond to written requests.**

By collecting information in writing EA is better able to respond accurately and quickly to your requests. Students who phone or visit EA will be directed back to this email/fax number. EA will respond to your email or fax within 24 hours during normal business days. EA guarantees to reply to you, therefore if you do not receive a reply back please check your junk mail folders to see that the email came from EA.

## Information EA Needs

When contacting EA, please provide the following information:

***Title***

***Full Name***

***Date of Birth***

***Email Address***

***Phone Number***

***Mobile***

***Address***

***Student Number***

***Visa Type:***

***Name of Course enrolled at your GEOS College***

***Date of commencement of studies***

***Expected completion date of studies***

***Fees paid in advance for tuition that has not yet been received***

***Supporting documentation***

## Visa Issues

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is aware of the GEOS situation and will respond to your enquiries. Please contact Immigration with your queries on visa issues on **13 18 81**. A list of immigration offices can be found at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/australia/index.htm>.

Further information is provided on the DIAC website for students affected by 'provider default':

[http://www.immi.gov.au/students/\\_pdf/edu-provider-default.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/_pdf/edu-provider-default.pdf)

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## About the EA Tuition Assurance Scheme (TAS)

The scheme is in compliance with the requirements of the Commonwealth's Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000. The purpose of the ESOS Act is to protect the interests of students studying in Australia on student visas, by providing students whose college has closed a suitable alternative course.

The Scheme ensures that overseas students displaced from any ELICOS course conducted by an EA member, due to the member's inability to continue the course, will be efficiently relocated with minimal disruption to studies in a comparable course with another EA member college.

The EA Tuition Assurance Scheme commits to placing all ELICOS students studying with a member college that closes, regardless of their visa type.

Further information is provided on the DEEWR website for students affected by 'provider default':

[http://aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/Provider\\_Default\\_FAQ.htm](http://aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/Provider_Default_FAQ.htm)

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**English Australia Pty Ltd** ABN 90 087 690 408 acting for and on behalf of ELICOS Association Ltd