

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 July 2011

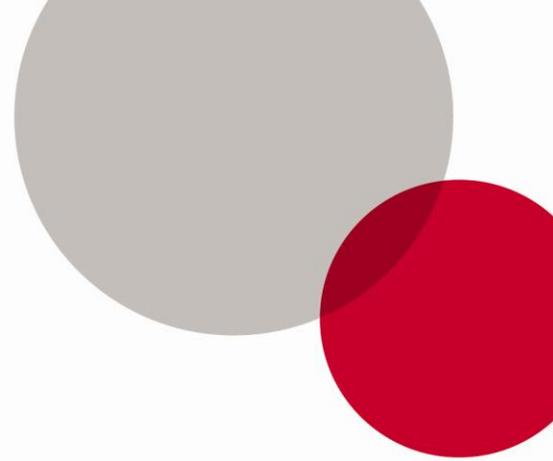
Statement to Crikey from the IELTS partners

The IELTS partners encourage independent academic research regarding the IELTS test to provide IELTS stakeholders with research to enhance their awareness and knowledge of the test and validate its effectiveness. Since 1995, over 90 external studies by more than 130 individual researchers have been funded under the IDP:IELTS Australia and British Council joint research scheme.

Dr Kieran O'Loughlin's paper is consistent with the advice given to institutions by IELTS on the use of IELTS scores for admissions purposes: specifically that it is the responsibility of education institutions to determine what level of English language proficiency is required and for IELTS to help them understand how this translates into an IELTS score.

IDP: IELTS Australia provides regular, evidence-based information to Australian universities to support their decision making regarding admissions policies and procedures. This includes guides for establishing IELTS entry levels for university programs, information DVDs, regular newsletters, information sessions for university staff and most importantly, dissemination of independent academic research reports. These materials are provided to Australian universities at no cost. In the last 18 months, IELTS Australia has delivered 15 information sessions to education institutions around Australia, which have been attended by 437 people, including admissions officers.

IELTS is jointly owned by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL).



International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

IELTS is the International English Language Testing System, the world's most popular high stakes English language test. 6,000 organisations recognise IELTS as a secure, valid and reliable indicator of true to life ability to communicate in English for education, immigration and professional accreditation. IELTS is jointly owned by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL).

British Council is the UK's international organisation for education and cultural relations. Dedicated to building trust through the exchange of knowledge between people worldwide, the British Council is represented in 107 countries.

IDP: IELTS Australia, a subsidiary of IDP Education, one of the world's leading international education organisations offering student placement in Australia, the USA and the UK. IDP Education has 40 years' experience in international higher education, placing more than 32,000 students every year.

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) is the world's leading provider of exams for learners of English. Each year the exams are taken by close to three million people, in 135 countries.

About the test

Candidates are tested in listening, reading, writing and speaking. All tests are scored on a banded system from 1 (the lowest) through to 9 (the highest possible band score).

IELTS offers a choice of two versions, to serve both academic and non-academic purposes. **IELTS Academic module** measures English language proficiency needed for an academic, higher learning environment. The tasks and texts are accessible to all test-takers, irrespective of their subject focus. **IELTS General Training module** measures English language proficiency in a practical, everyday context. The tasks and texts reflect both workplace and social situations. The General Training module is suitable for immigration purposes to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

A sample of government and professional associations who recognise or require applicants to hold an IELTS test report form include:

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)
- UK Home Office – Border Agency
- New Zealand Immigration Service
- Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools and National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), USA
- International Monetary Fund

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