



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Suspended sentence for English language testing scam

6.7.12

An Indian national who acted as an intermediary to have an English language test score changed was sentenced in the District Court today to six months and one day's jail suspended for 12 months.

He is the 12<sup>th</sup> and final person to be sentenced following a Corruption and Crime Commission investigation into the scam that involved a former employee of Curtin University, Mr Kok Keith Low, being bribed to alter test scores.

Vinod Kumar Jaiswal, 25, of Glendalough, pleaded guilty to one charge of bribery after passing on \$12,000 from another Indian national to have a score changed in a test conducted by the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) at the then Curtin English Language Centre.

The tests are part of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's application process for visas or permanent residency.

The court heard that the \$12,000 paid to Jaiswal was passed through three intermediaries who each took a cut before the former Curtin University employee was eventually paid \$1,500.

Judge Jeremy Curthoys said Jaiswal's involvement was at the lower end of the scale adding that he didn't benefit financially.

However, he said a jail sentence had to be imposed as a deterrent to show that bribing public officials won't be tolerated.

Judge Curthoys said the community needed to have confidence in the tests which determine whether or not people are allowed to remain in the country.

Mr Low is currently serving a two-year sentence over his involvement in the scheme.

Curtin University has since cancelled its involvement in IELTS. Both Curtin University and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship fully cooperated with the Commission throughout its investigation.

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