

ACCC takes action against Clinica and Radovan Laski alleging misleading and unconscionable conduct

The ACCC has also alleged that Clinica's current sole director, **Mr Radovan Montague Laski, was knowingly concerned in Clinica's conduct.**

"Clinica's clients were in many cases newly arrived migrants to Australia. We allege that they were induced to pay significant sums of money on a misleading promise that they would be provided with sponsors and regional jobs which would lead to permanent residency," ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.

Under the program, between approximately August 2012 and July 2013, Clinica represented to prospective clients through advertisements, oral statements, contracts and receipts that:

- the clients would qualify for permanent residency by completing a 4-week cleaning course and working in a regional cleaning job with a sponsoring employer; and
- Clinica had regional cleaning jobs with sponsoring employers available for the clients at the end of the cleaning course.

It is alleged that these representations were false, misleading or deceptive, because Clinica did not have regional cleaning jobs with sponsoring employers available for clients that participated in the program and, even if the regional cleaning jobs had been available, those cleaning jobs did not meet the skill level requirements necessary for permanent residency under the relevant visa.

It is also alleged that in promoting and implementing the program, Clinica engaged in conduct that was, in all the circumstances, unconscionable.

"The alleged conduct by Clinica targeted some of the most vulnerable groups in

our community with a view to profit,” Mr Sims said.

“The ACCC is currently prioritising its work in the area of consumer protection issues impacting on vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers, with a particular focus on consumers who are newly arrived in Australia.”

The regulator is seeking declarations, injunctions, a disqualification order against Mr Laski, compensation orders for the clients, pecuniary penalties, findings of fact and costs.