

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity)

Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Department: Department of the Treasury
Topic: International student caps
Reference: Spoken
Senator: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator HENDERSON: Could I ask the Department of the Treasury about the modelling for international student caps. What modelling have you done? I also refer to the evidence that was given a number of months ago by the secretary saying that no further action would be required to reach your NOM. Could you please provide the committee with details about the modelling you've done in relation to international student caps.

Ms Reinhardt: The Treasury, the Department of Education, the Department of Home Affairs and DEWR have all contributed input into developing an understanding of how, if a certain number of students commence or are given commencement notices, that would translate to NOM and then how a cap would be developed in light of that. As I'm sure you can imagine, when you set a particular target number of commencements, you need to then take into account whether those students are likely to arrive, whether they are likely to stay for the required 12 out of 16 months and whether they are likely to be onshore or offshore. Taking into account all those factors helps the government work out what the appropriate target would be, given students make up around 50 per cent of our total numbers.

Senator HENDERSON: Can you just provide a copy of that modelling to the committee on notice?

Ms Reinhardt: I would not characterise it, firstly, as modelling.

Senator HENDERSON: Or the work that you've done.

Ms Reinhardt: I would characterise it as work that we've done to understand the implications.

Senator HENDERSON: Okay. Sorry.

Ms Reinhardt: As you are aware, Senator, the government has not yet made an announcement on this, so I'm not really in a position to share their underpinning work, which is the subject of cabinet deliberations.

Senator HENDERSON: That's not a reason not to provide that information to the committee. A document which assists the minister is not a cabinet document. So I would ask that you please provide that work that you've done to the minister, which you're required to do under the rules of the Senate.

Ms Reinhardt: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

Treasury provided advice on the impacts of a National Planning Level for new international student commencements as part of the Cabinet process. Treasury will continue to assess any potential effects as part of updating its forecasts for net overseas migration in the 2024-25 MYEFO, taking into account latest available indicator data and other relevant information.

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Inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity)

Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Department: Department of the Treasury
Topic: Net Overseas Migration forecasts
Reference: Spoken
Senator: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. I will have other questions on notice. Going back to the NOM, could we get your working documents in relation to the NOM—where it is now—so we can understand the work that Treasury is doing to date on the NOM, please?

Ms Reinhardt: We wouldn't have working documents that we would—we would redo the forecasts as part of MYEFO.

Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide whatever working documents you have, please?

Ms Reinhardt: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

The current forecasts for NOM were published in the 2024-25 Budget. Treasury will produce updated NOM forecasts for the 2024-25 MYEFO.

The ABS publishes NOM statistics on a quarterly basis.