

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**Inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment
(Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

06 September 2024

QoN Number: 08

Subject: International student visa applications by education provider

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson: Can I just ask, how many international student visa applications by education provider have been issued for each year over the past five calendar years? Also, now you may need to take this on notice, the number of student visas granted to each education provider for each year over the past five years and the number denied, if you could provide that data on notice please.

Damien Kilner: Yes Senator, we will.

Answer:

Information at the education provider level is commercial in confidence.

Statement

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs claims public interest immunity in respect of information at the provider level, based on the commercial harm that would be caused if this information was released.

The release of information at the individual provider level and their visa outcomes would cause competitive disadvantage to providers or relative advantage to other providers. Information relating to visa refusals, grants, or grant rates at the provider level have been observed to affect agents or prospective students' intentions to apply at a particular provider, which has a direct consequence on commercial outcomes. This shift in behaviour may also reflect a misunderstanding of the quality of education on offer to students and may lead to unintended impacts on the Student visa program as a whole, should students use this information to target particular providers. This sort of targeting would also impact their evidence level score in the Simplified Student Visa Framework.

It would be open to the Committee to seek in camera evidence from the Department on these matters.