

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment Legislation

Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill
2024 [Provisions]

2 October 2024

QoN Number: 18

Subject: Ministerial Direction 107 and student visa applications prioritisation

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

If Ministerial Direction 107 is removed assuming the bill is passed as the Minister for Education has confirmed in a letter to universities, how will student visa applications be prioritised for processing?

Answer:

- Consistent with the way other visa programs are managed, where no Ministerial Direction is in place outlining the approach to visa caseload, processing will default to managing the caseload in date order.
- Visa processing times can vary for a range of reasons even when approached broadly in date order, including whether an application was submitted complete with required documents and how quickly clients respond to requests for information or for action relating to health or identity requirements, for example.
- The removal of Ministerial Direction 107 is a matter for government.