

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment
(Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024 [Provisions]**

06 August 2024

QoN Number: 03

Subject: Data on Visa Grants by Education Provider

Asked by: Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson - What can you tell us about the visa approvals and the reduction in student visa approvals over the last two years? Can you provide that detail?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - We can give you data on the number of visa grants over the past few years, if that would help?

Senator Henderson – Could we have the most recent data as well, please?

Ms Tara Cavanagh – Certainly.

[...]

Senator Henderson - Could you please provide a breakdown for each higher education provider - each university - as to the grants for each provider?

Ms Tara Cavanagh – I note that that question was in the letter that was sent to the department at lunchtime today. For us to report on the number of visas to each provider is quite a detailed process, noting that there are, I think 1800 providers. It's not been possible to do that in the time available today, but we are very happy to take that on notice and see what we can do

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.

Visa grant numbers by sector, split by location to 30 June 2024 are below.

Client Location	Sector	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
In Australia	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	437	549	436	378	352	373	374	540	420	428	292
	Higher Education Sector	52,732	50,253	47,847	51,666	65,818	74,626	76,061	69,588	48,968	81,205	49,261
	Independent EUCOS Sector	9,496	9,310	7,872	7,792	8,988	9,240	9,717	4,571	1,155	9,161	7,361
	Non-Award Sector	592	505	467	455	437	431	325	192	54	285	206
	Postgraduate Research Sector	4,546	4,599	3,845	3,251	3,716	3,985	4,759	4,311	3,586	7,219	4,223
	Schools Sector	1,028	1,061	963	1,095	1,398	1,548	1,602	1,125	744	1,504	1,520
Vocational Education and Training Sector		44,082	46,021	45,539	51,721	63,473	71,799	82,448	73,177	53,111	107,514	45,071
In Australia Total		112,913	112,298	106,969	116,358	144,182	162,002	175,286	153,504	108,038	207,316	107,934
Outside Australia	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	6,454	6,051	4,947	5,989	5,896	4,762	3,256	602	2,536	4,132	4,336
	Higher Education Sector	99,612	101,460	110,314	124,289	133,298	142,098	98,753	64,442	101,629	218,939	177,969
	Independent EUCOS Sector	21,468	23,905	26,465	32,304	29,568	31,276	23,851	1,207	15,356	65,466	31,659
	Non-Award Sector	19,341	18,698	20,242	20,084	20,430	19,968	12,167	248	7,205	17,147	17,457
	Postgraduate Research Sector	6,775	6,509	6,319	7,256	7,255	7,254	5,552	4,780	5,220	9,579	8,573
	Schools Sector	8,931	10,950	10,961	11,886	10,447	9,276	5,570	1,530	3,307	9,187	8,258
Vocational Education and Training Sector		16,566	19,669	24,628	24,869	27,216	29,106	15,717	6,437	20,446	45,529	20,545
Outside Australia Total		179,147	187,242	203,876	226,677	234,110	243,740	164,866	79,246	155,699	369,979	268,797
Grand Total		292,060	299,540	310,845	343,035	378,292	405,742	340,152	232,750	263,737	577,295	376,731

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**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment
(Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024 [Provisions]**

06 August 2024

QoN Number: 04

Subject: Data on Visa Grants for the 41 Universities

Asked by: Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson - What about the visas issued to the 41 universities?

Mr Damien Kilner - We don't have a break down here...

Senator Henderson - You don't have any breakdown?

Mr Damien Kilner - Not by provider, only by sector, but we can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

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Statement

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