

## Senate Committee: Education and Employment

### QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

#### Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000324

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 03 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 78

#### *Education agents*

#### Question

Mr Griew: I have referred to the national code for providers of education and training to overseas students from 2007, which places expectations on providers. Anne Baly, who you are used to seeing here at this point, is not here because she is currently in London chairing an international group on the integrity of international education, which is having a specific discussion about agents. This is a common issue. Australia led the development of a 2012 statement of ethical principles in relation to international students known as the London Statement. The fact that we do not directly register agents—

Senator KIM CARR: Do they mention agents? Does that protocol mention agents?

Mr Griew: I believe it does, yes.

Senator KIM CARR: What does it say?

Mr Griew: I will take on notice what it says.

#### Answer

The London Statement is also known as the 'Statement of Principles for the Ethical Recruitment of International Students by Education Agents and Consultants'. It sets out seven principles for the recruitment of, and related services provided to, students in international education.

The London Statement promotes best practice. It was agreed to by the United Kingdom, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand on 16 March 2012 and is reflected in each country's approach to international education.

The principles are:

1. Agents and consultants practice responsible business ethics.
2. Agents and consultants provide current, accurate and honest information in an ethical manner.
3. Agents and consultants develop transparent business relationships with students and providers through the use of written agreements.
4. Agents and consultants protect the interests of minors.
5. Agents and consultants provide current and up-to-date information that enables international students to make informed choices when selecting which agent or consultant to employ.
6. Agents and consultants act professionally.
7. Agents and consultants work with destination countries and providers to raise ethical standards and best practice.

The London Statement can be found at the following link:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/News/Latest-News/Documents/StatementofPrinciples.pdf>