

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/160) - Imperial College - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

The Victorian Government, as noted in the last Estimates round (SE15/066), cancelled a training contract with Imperial College and two other providers in August 2015. Yet in July 2015, your department granted the college SVP status. Presumably the problems leading to the Victorian Government's cancellation existed in July 2015.

Has the department reviewed the requirements for SVP status in the light of this? Do you have plans to do so? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Imperial College of Australia (BJSB Pty Ltd) was invited to apply to access streamlined visa processing arrangements in July 2014 and their application was deferred. The Imperial College of Australia was found to meet the requirements outlined in the Guidelines (see www.border.gov.au/Busi/Educ/Stre), and entered into streamlined visa processing arrangements on 1 July 2015.

The Imperial College of Australia remains an eligible education provider under streamlined visa processing arrangements. They have not been found to have breached the Ongoing Assessment Criteria under the Guidelines. The action taken by the Victorian Government was in relation to domestic students and does not affect the provider's eligibility for streamlined visa processing.

SVP is scheduled to cease on 30 June 2016 with the new simplified student visa framework (SSVF) to come into effect.