

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/227) - Student Visas - Student Visa Granted Pivot Table, Vocational Education and Training Sector visa grants - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Looking at figures in the Student Visa Granted Pivot Table, Vocational Education and Training Sector visa grants appears to be on target to be the second largest on record in 2016-17.

- Is it your expectation that the rate on visa's granted in vocational education and training will continue?
- What is the reason behind this surge in VET visa grants?
- What are the countries of origin of VET sector visa grants in 2016-17 to date?
- What has been the average processing time for VET sector visa grants in 2016-17? Could you please breakup by month?

*Answer:*

1. Is it your expectation that the rate on visa's granted in Vocational Education and Training (VET) will continue?

The Student visa programme is demand-driven. This means that the Department will grant as many visa applications which are lodged and meet all requirements.

2. What is the reason behind this surge in VET visa grants?

Increased recruitment activity by Australian based education providers in the VET sector has contributed to this increase. In 2016-17, more applications were lodged that met legislative requirements than in previous periods.

3. What are the countries of origin of VET sector visa grants in 2016-17 to date?

Table 1 provides the countries of origin where a Student (subclass 500) visa was granted in the Vocational Education and Training sector for the 2016-17 programme year (1 July 2016 to 28 February 2017).

4. What has been the average processing time for VET sector visa grants in 2016-17?  
Could you please breakup by month?

Table 2 provides the median processing times for Student visas in the Vocational Education and Training sector by month for the programme year 2016-17 (1 July 2016 to 28 February 2017).

Table 1: Countries of origin for Student (subclass 500) visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 28 February 2017 where the sector was Vocational Education and Training

Travel document country
Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; American Samoa; Andorra; Argentina; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Bhutan; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Burundi; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Chile; China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs); Colombia; Congo, Dem Republic of The; Costa Rica; Cote d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Estonia; Ethiopia; Faroe Islands; Fiji; Finland; France; FYR Macedonia; Georgia; Germany, Fed Republic of; Ghana; Greece; Guatemala; Honduras; Hong Kong (SAR of the PRC); Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Ireland, Republic of; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kiribati; Korea, South; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lao Peoples Dem Republic; Latvia; Lebanon; Liberia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macau Special Admin Region; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Moldova; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; Netherlands, Kingdom of The; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Palau; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Serbia; Serbia and Montenegro; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Suriname; Sweden; Switzerland; Taiwan; Tanzania; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uruguay; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Venezuela; Vietnam; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Table 2: 50<sup>th</sup> Percentile processing times for Student (Subclass 500) primary visa applications decided (granted or refused) in 2016-17 to 28 February 2017 where the sector was Vocational Education and Training by month

Month	50th Percentile (Calendar Days)
Jul	10
Aug	14
Sep	21
Oct	19
Nov	14
Dec	16
Jan	24
Feb	18