

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/122) - SVP - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 80) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Has the department ever considered or removed a provider from the scheme?

Mr Williams: Not so far to date, no, but two formal warnings have been issued because providers exceeded risk ratings.

Senator KIM CARR: What was the nature of the breaches?

Mr Williams: I do not have that detail.

Senator KIM CARR: Could you provide that?

Mr Williams: I will take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: When did that occur?

Mr Williams: That was in April 2015.

Senator KIM CARR: Do they get an opportunity to appeal or contest an immigration department decision?

Mr Wilden: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Do you consider the capacity to manage overseas agents?

Mr Wilden: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

What was the nature of the breaches?

In April 2015, two education providers received a formal notice that their immigration risk rating was above the acceptable threshold and that they have six months to lower their immigration risk rating otherwise they risk losing access to streamlined visa processing.

Do they get an opportunity to appeal or contest an immigration department decision?

The streamlined visa processing guidelines outline the process where the Minister may decide to remove an education provider from the arrangements where their immigration risk rating is above the acceptable threshold.

Do you consider the capacity to manage overseas agents?

The Department considers the strategies for managing education agents outlined by a provider in their opt-in application before recommending whether a provider should be able to access the streamlined visa processing arrangements.