

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/144) - Revised Student Visa Framework - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

- The Education Department told the Education and Employment Legislation Committee that they were part of a consultative forum on a revised student visa framework. Is there:
 - (a) any consultative forum or any other committee for a revised student visa framework
 - (b) any consultative forum or any other committee for the streamlined visa processing program
 - (c) for any of the above what is the date it was established, how many meetings have taken place (including the dates), and what is the membership
 - (d) are these forums or committees permanent or have been convened for specific projects or activities?

Answer:

- (a) The Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC) is the primary stakeholder engagement forum for matters relating to the student visa programme.
- (b) Streamlined visa processing has been a regular agenda item at the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC).
- (c) The Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC) was established in response to a recommendation of the *Strategic Review of the Student Visa Programme 2011* report ('the Knight Review') on 20 June 2011. EVCC meetings have been held on the following dates:

2011 – 26 October.

2012 – 22 February; 20 April; 6 July; 14 September; 9 November.

2013 – 8 February; 10 May; 15 November.

2014 – 21 February; 9 May; 8 August; 12 December.

2015 – 6 March; 26 June.

Membership comprises:

- Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Chair)
- Department of Education and Training
- Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)
- All state and territory governments
- Australian Council for Private Education and Training
- Australian Council of Trade Unions

- Australian Government Schools International
- Business Council of Australia
- Council of International Students Australia
- Council of Private Higher Education
- English Australia
- International Education Association Australia
- Independent Schools Council of Australia
- TAFE Directors Australia
- Universities Australia.

(d) The Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC) is an ongoing forum.