

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/063) - SVP provider - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 133) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: At the time of the arrest?

Mr Manthorpe: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: How do they get registration?

Mr Manthorpe: As an SVP provider?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes.

Mr Manthorpe: In the same way as any other.

Senator KIM CARR: They had to apply?

Mr Manthorpe: Yes and were assessed.

Senator KIM CARR: The department did the assessment?

Mr Manthorpe: They were assessed in an earlier round.

Senator KIM CARR: When did you discover that they were up to no good?

Mr Manthorpe: As I understand, at or about the same time as all this came out in about August this year.

Senator KIM CARR: So the police told you.

Mr Manthorpe: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: How did you find out?

Mr Manthorpe: I would take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: The date?

Mr Manthorpe: Sure.

Senator KIM CARR: How many days did it take between removing their SVP status and the discovery that they were engaged in criminal activity?

Mr Wilden: We would have to take that on notice to see what the timing of those events was.

Answer:

Response to SQ15-006382 also refers to this matter.

The Department was aware of and actively participated in a tri-patriate operation which led to the removal of St Stephen Institute of Technology Pty Ltd's registration.

The Australian Federal Police first informed the Department in May 2015 of this case and a Joint Agency Agreement was entered into in 22 June 2015.

As removal from streamlined visa processing arrangements is a public process, it was not appropriate for the Department to remove the provider until search warrants were executed. This occurred on 5 August 2015. On this date, the Australian Skills Quality Authority also revoked St Stephen Institute of Technology Pty Ltd's registration under

the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act (2011)*. From 5 August 2015 St Stephen Institute of Technology Pty Ltd was not able to recruit or deliver services to any students, including international students.

The Minister removed St Stephen Institute Pty Ltd from streamlined visa processing arrangements on 15 August 2015. This was seven working days from the removal of their registration under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act (2011)*.