

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE16/096) - Transition to Streamlined Student Visa Framework - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

1. How did the Department prepare for the transition to the Streamlined Student Visa Framework?
2. For an education provider – say a university – what changed as a result of the new system?

*Answer:*

1. *How did the Department prepare for the transition to the Streamlined Student Visa Framework?*

To implement the Simplified Student Visa Framework on 1 July 2016, the Department:

- involved industry in a review of the Streamlined Visa Processing Arrangements and later in the development of policy settings;
- made significant changes to systems, regulations and processes;
- trained (face to face, online and self-paced) staff;
- provided staff with support including communications, procedures advice manuals and processing guidelines;
- published information about the new framework through the website (promoted on social media), including updated content on a dedicated education providers' webpage;
- disseminated fact sheets and promoted web material to education providers via the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC); and
- made the document checklist tool available before implementation so that agents and students could familiarise themselves with the new process.

To assist the industry to transition to the Simplified Student Visa Framework, the Department:

- attended numerous industry led forums including the Australian International Education Conference;
- held early information sessions in major capital cities across Australia aimed at providers; and
- held further information sessions before implementation around Australia and in key markets (including China, Vietnam, India, Brazil, United Arab Emirates and South Africa). All registered education providers were invited to attend the sessions in Australia.

2. *For an education provider – say a university – what changed as a result of the new system?*

The Simplified Student Visa Framework creates a level playing field for all education providers.

The key change for education providers was the introduction of the country and provider immigration risk framework replacing Streamlined Visa Processing arrangements and the Assessment Level Framework.

All education providers registered with the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students have been allocated an immigration risk rating between one (the lowest risk) and three (the highest risk) based on the immigration risk outcomes of their international students over the previous 12-month period. The same approach has been used to allocate an immigration risk rating to each country.

The combined immigration risk outcomes of the student's education provider and country of citizenship are now used to guide the level of financial and English language capacity related documentation that the student needs to provide with their student visa application.

To support this change, all providers can access information about their immigration risk outcomes through a reporting tool updated each month.

For information on other changes, please see:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Educ/simplified-student-visa>