

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/098) - SSVF country risk - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

1. Brett Blacker, executive director of peak group English Australia, has described the current system as lacking nuance, applying the same criteria to very low risk students from Japan, to those from Nepal and Pakistan. Are you applying the same criteria to students from Japan, to those from Nepal and Pakistan?
2. Is this a consequence of the policy change to reduce the number of AL levels, or a consequence of some other policy change?
3. What is the visa rejection rate for students from Pakistan as compared with Japan?
4. Is it still the case that you will not publish country immigration risk ratings? Why?
5. How do you determine country immigration risk ratings?
6. On page 24 of your report – released in June 2015 - Future directions for streamlined visa processing you indicate that you expected that more student visa applications would be subject to lower evidentiary requirements. Has this proven to be the case?

Answer:

1. No. Under the Simplified Student Visa Framework the combined immigration risk outcomes of the student's education provider and country of citizenship is used to guide the level of evidence of English language and financial capacity that a student needs to provide with their visa application.
2. The Simplified Student Visa Framework replaced the previous Assessment Levels from 1 July 2016.
3. The grant rate for students from Pakistan from 1 June 2016 to 30 September 2016 is 63.5 per cent. The grant rate for students from Japan for the same period is 99.2 per cent.
4. Yes. The Department does not publish the country immigration risk ratings. Country immigration risk ratings are only one component which determines evidence requirements. Students are able to use an online tool to determine their required documents, including financial and English language evidentiary requirements.
5. The methodology for determining immigration risk is published at: <http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Educ/managing-immigration-risk>
6. Yes. The number of student visas finalised from 1 July 2016 – 30 September 2016 which were subject to streamlined evidentiary requirements is larger than the number of student visas finalised in the same period in 2015 which were subject to Streamlined Visa Processing or Assessment Level 1.