

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE16/101) - Consultative Forum on Student Visa Framework - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

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 working group of the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC) was specifically established to provide input into the implementation of the recommendations of the *Future Directions for streamlined visa processing* report.

The Department worked closely with the international education sector, including the EVCC and EVCC working group, to review the Streamlined Visa Processing (SVP) arrangements and develop the policy settings for the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF).

- In November 2014, the Department released the *Future Directions for streamlined visa processing* discussion paper to members of the EVCC and other key international education stakeholders. 32 formal submissions were received in response to the discussion paper.
- Based on feedback and the Department's own evaluation of the SVP arrangements, the *Future directions for streamlined visa processing* report was released on 16 June 2015.
- An EVCC working group comprising peak bodies and relevant Commonwealth and state government agencies was subsequently established by the Department in July 2015 to support the implementation of the eight recommendations of the report.
- The working group met on three occasions during July and August 2015 and has played a key role in determining the policy settings that underpin the SSVF and how it operates in practice.

Members of the EVCC are:

Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Higher Education  
Department of Education  
Austrade  
Australian Council of 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 Inc.  
English Australia  
Independent Schools Council of Australia  
International Education Association of Australia  
TAFE Directors Australia  
ACT Government  
NSW Government  
NT Government  
QLD Government  
SA Government  
TAS Government  
Vic Government  
WA Government.

The EVCC meets quarterly to discuss and share information on a variety of matters related to the student visa programme.

As at 2 November 2016, the EVCC has met 20 times, most recently:

4 September 2015  
4 December 2015  
5 February 2016  
22 April 2016  
5 August 2016.