

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0189) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Fact Sheet – Stage One Implementation of the Knight Review Changes to the Student Visa Program states that “Stage one of the Australian Government’s response to the Strategic Review of the student visa program will be progressively being implemented before the end of 2011.”

a. Was Stage One implemented before the end of 2011? If so, on what date? If not, why not? When will Stage One be complete?

Answer:

The stage one Knight Review recommendations were all implemented in 2011. The majority of the stage one recommendations commenced on 5 November 2011 and included:

- the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement (recommendations 1 and 2);
- an increase to the visa validity of all Higher Degree of Research visas (including PhD students entering under the AusAID or Defence Sector (subclass 576 visa)) by six months for the purpose of interactive marking of a thesis (recommendation 9);
- removal of the English language test requirements for Assessment Level 4 and above stand-alone English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Student visa applicants (recommendation 10);
- pre-paid homestay fees included in financial assessments on the same basis as pre-paid boarding fees (recommendation 14); and
- cessation of the policy regarding Pre-Visa Assessment (recommendation 38).

In addition, the Education Visa Consultative Committee was established and had its first meeting on 26 October 2011 (recommendation 37) and the cessation of the current arrangements whereby Student Course Variations automatically become Non Compliance Notices came into effect on 10 December 2011 (recommendation 23).