

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(19) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Humphries (L&C 48) asked:

Do you have a projection of how many fewer offshore and how many more onshore students?

Answer:

Australia received 267,343 Student visa applications in the eleven months ending 31 May 2010. This is an 18.3 per cent decrease compared to the same period of 2008-09, and represents a return to application levels in 2007-08.

As shown in the table below, offshore Student visa applications in the eleven months ending 31 May 2010 have decreased by 32.1 per cent compared to the same period in 2008-09, with onshore applications increasing by 16.0 per cent. Based on current trends it is likely there will be growth in onshore applications in 2010-11 which will be offset by a decrease in offshore applications.

Student visa applications 2007-08 and 2009-10 - from July to May of each year

Client Location	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	% variation 2009-10 compared to 2008-09
Offshore	196,305	233,264	158,332	-32.1
Onshore	75,657	93,980	109,011	16.0
Grand Total	271,962	327,244	267,343	-18.3

Australia has the fourth largest share of the international student market in terms of volume, and in relative terms, the largest share compared to other competitor countries such as the US, the UK and Germany.

The demand for Student visas is driven by a complex interplay of factors including the value of the Australian dollar, the effect of the global financial crisis, international perceptions of the treatment of international students in Australia and changes to policy and regulatory settings both in Australia and in competitor countries. The cost of undertaking study in Australia compared to other competitor countries and market confidence in the quality of Australian education are also important factors that affect demand.