

Answers to questions on notice - Inquiry into Treasury Laws
Amendment (National Housing and Homelessness
Agreement) Bill 2017

The Treasury

- Additional information taken on notice at a public hearing in
Melbourne on 29 January 2018

Additional Information on Notice

Commonwealth funding for remote Indigenous housing

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have policy responsibility for Remote Indigenous Housing matters. They advise that the Commonwealth is in discussions with relevant jurisdictions about future arrangements for remote Indigenous housing. Negotiations will be progressed through direct conversations with the jurisdictions involved.

International student intake

The Commonwealth is responsible for granting student visas. Student visas are granted to applicants that meet several criteria, including that they are enrolled in a course that is registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). An exception to the enrolment requirement is provided to students undertaking approved secondary exchange programs or students sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Department of Defence.

The Commonwealth and the States and Territories share responsibility for education. The Commonwealth has specific levers in relation to promoting quality education and protection for international students.

States' and Territories' Strategies

It is not possible at this time to assess whether State and Territory housing and homelessness strategies do or do not meet the requirements set out in the Bill. Firstly, there is scope to specify additional matters for inclusion in the strategies in the primary and supplementary housing agreements, which have not been finalised. Secondly, it is intended that State and Territory supplementary (bilateral) agreements will be taken to form part of their strategies. Any matters or requirements not currently included in State or Territory strategies may be included in their supplementary housing agreement.