

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in Tuesday's hearing on the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024.

I apologise for the technology issues preventing me from making a final comment in respect to implementation timeframes for Part 7 the Bill, which I believe is quite important.

Should limits envisaged under Part 7 be imposed, Charles Darwin University (CDU) seeks clarity for 2025 and disagrees with other universities represented that 2026 is a more appropriate implementation timeframe. The uncertainty that has been generated by Ministerial Direction 107 coupled with the recent increase in visa processing fees to \$1600 will continue to favour large metropolitan universities that hold Visa Evidence Level 1. These universities have comparatively benefitted and continue to enrol large proportions of international students from concentrated 'low-risk' countries.

It follows that CDU has been disadvantaged, and as the only University headquartered in the NT, this is readily visible in the data available from the PRISMS and [DHA Student visas granted pivot table](#) that shows:

- The NT experienced a 67.4% drop in visa grants from offshore from Jan-Jun 2023 compared to Jan-Jun 2024.
- NT proportionally held 0.8% of the national visa grants from Jan-Jun 2023, and this dropped to 0.4% in Jan-Jun 2024.
- Not only have the number of Visa grants declined from 2023 to 2024, but proportionally the NT has lost share of visa grants to other states and territories. NSW, VIC and ACT have all increased their share of visa grants.

I thank the Committee for its Inquiry into this Bill and am happy to provide any further information.

Regards

Scott

Professor Scott Bowman AO he/him
Vice-Chancellor and President