SENATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE HEARING

30 January 2018

INQUIRY INTO THE MIGRATION AMENDMENT (SKILLING AUSTRALIANS FUND) BILL 2017 AND THE MIGRATION (SKILLING AUSTRALIANS FUND) CHARGES BILL 2017

Question on Notice:

How did you come up with the $9.5M in your submission? Could you provide information on what the costs of the SAF levy would be for universities based on figures from previous years?

We stress that this figure, as it appeared on the Universities Australia submission to the Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Skilling Australians Fund) Bill 2017 and Migration (Skilling Australians Fund) Charges Bill 2017 [provisions], is an estimate.

The estimated the cost of the SAF levy to the university sector <u>for TSS visas</u> will be in excess of **$9.5 million per annum.** The $9.5million is based on the 1,328 Subclass 457 visas approved for the occupation of "University Lecturer" in the financial year ended 30 June 2017, a figure which has remained constant for the past 3 years[1]. Each of these visas will be granted for a period of 4 years (as is the usual practice for academic appointments) and will incur a total cost of $7,200 per person for the duration of the visa.

The figure of $9.5M does not include 457 visas related to other occupations (eg Faculty Head, Life Scientist, other science occupations, other professional occupations), for which 457 visas would have been granted, where the sponsor was a University. It is thus a is a conservative figure.

The figure of $9.5M also does not include Employee Nominated visas (subclass 186 and 187) visas which we estimate would be an additional cost of at least $5M (based on 1000 visas). Thus an estimated total cost would be $14.5M. Every university in Australia will see an increase in costs with the introduction of the SAF levy, because every university recruits internationally, as part of the truly global nature of the academic workforce. The amount per university will vary significantly depending on the profile of the institution.

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[1] (1) http://data.gov.au/dataset/visa-temporary-work-skilled/resource/fcfb682e-63b9-4a94-a071-9629f171f7b5).