



Australian Government  
Schools International

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Committee Secretary,  
Senate Education and Employment Committees  
PO Box 6100 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir / Madam,

As the industry association for international education in the schools sector, Australian Government Schools International (AGSI) wishes to advise that we support the ESOS Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 and the ESOS (Registration Charges) Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 through the Senate.

The Federal Department of Education and Training has led extensive consultation with all international education stakeholders over the past 18 months in regards to the ESOS Bills. A number of ESOS legislation workshops have been held in Canberra and other sessions have taken place in all capital cities. AGSI has attended these workshops and sessions and provided input and feedback on the proposed amendments.

AGSI supports the ESOS Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 and the ESOS (Registration Charges) Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 for the following reasons:

- The removal of the designated account does not weaken protections for students, as they would remain protected by the Tuition Protection Service established in 2012 and the Australian Government Actuary has indicated any increased risk from removing the designated account is not large.
- Removing the 24 week study period would not allow providers to arbitrarily change student arrangements, given the requirement for a written agreement remains in the National Code along with a 26 week study period or 6 months. For school students a study period is always a school year.
- Removing the restriction on payments of 50% of tuition fees provides parents and students with greater choice and flexibility. Parents often request payment of a whole year to take advantage of favourable exchange rates. A number of AGSI members have agreements with provincial Ministries of Education overseas who provide scholarships for their students to study in an Australian government school for a year and they wish to pay the full year tuition fees upfront. The restriction on the payment is regulation required for a very small number of unethical providers who should be dealt with through the CRICOS registration process. The National code provides students and parents with protection. These changes assist them further by providing greater flexibility.

Australian Government Schools International supports the passage of these Bills.

Yours sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Webber,  
Chair, Australian Government Schools International