

## Government Education and Training International

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CRICOS Provider : Tasmanian Polytechnic 03041M



4 October 2011

**Submission Number: 11**  
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Committee Secretariat  
Standing Committee on Education and Employment  
House of Representatives  
Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Secretary

**Education Services for Overseas Students Legislation Amendment**  
**(Tuition Protection Service and Other Measures) Bill 2011**  
**Submission on behalf of Government education providers in Tasmania**

The Government Education and Training International (GETI) Tasmania office is responsible for the marketing, enrolment, admissions and ongoing welfare of international students at all Government Schools, Colleges and vocational providers in Tasmania.

The proposed amendments to the ESOS Act submitted to the House of Representatives cause some concern regarding time frames and financial restrictions. These amendments briefly outlined below, pose issues for the ongoing administration of international student enrolments and study.

Comments against amendments:

*Division 2, Subdivision A, section 46A*

All Tasmanian regions have multiple campuses of schools, colleges and the Polytechnic. Therefore in the event that a course was not being offered at one location, a student would be offered a place at a nearby location. In this event, the provider should not be treated as being in default.

*Section 46B and 47A*

The requirement for a notification within 24 hours of provider and student default to the Secretary and TPS Director is not realistic for large government providers. Students can be delayed for various legitimate reasons; Government providers are closed on weekends and have various reporting structures regarding default. A reporting structure consistent with PRISMS of notification within 14 days would allow time to confirm details and ensure a genuine default has occurred.

*Schedule 3*

*Section 22 – Requirement to provide for study periods*

*Subsection (3)*

A study period of no more than 24 weeks is not consistent with school operations, or various short vocational programs.

*Division 2 section 27 pre-paid fees*

*Subsection (1)*

Students on short programs, such as study abroad programs from Europe, may be studying for periods from a few weeks to a year. These programs are usually paid up front, making it easier for overseas schools and parents to arrange one payment.

Parents and students may also prefer to pay more than 50% of their tuition fees to take advantage of favourable exchange rates.

*Subsection (3)*

In many cases tuition fees must be received more than 2 weeks prior to the commencement of a course to allow students to have a visa application processed in time to begin the course.

Continuing students particularly in the schools sector often prefer to pay fees in advance for the following year.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Ripper  
Executive Manager  
Government Education and Training International