

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/232) - Student Visas - Education Visa Consultative Committee - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Is the Education Visa Consultative Committee still in operation?

- How many times has it met in 2016 and 2017?
- What has been discussed at these meetings?
- What issues have participants raised about the operation of the Simplified Student Visa Framework?

Answer:

Yes, the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC) is still in operation.

The EVCC convenes quarterly. It met four times in 2016. In 2017, it met in February and three more meetings are scheduled for later this year.

During the EVCC meetings, the following topics are regularly discussed:

- Student visa policy updates;
- Student visa processing issues;
- Student visa integrity updates;
- Student visa and Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa statistics; and
- Any other matters in relation to the student visa programme, including updates from Austrade and the Department of Education and Training.

EVCC members have raised the following issues about the operation of the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF):

- Student visa policy issues:
 - Changes to legislative instruments to better align the student visa programme to the policy intent of SSVF;
 - Attribution of immigration risk ratings to the principal provider;
 - Need to develop SSVF performance measures;
 - Students transferring from senior secondary school to foundation courses; and
 - Austrade overseas posts survey in relation to the operation of the SSVF.

- Student visa processing issues:
 - Processing times post implementation; and
 - Time taken to complete a student visa application.

- Reporting issues:
 - Increasing the scope of immigration risk reports to include education sectors.