

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/114) PROGRAMME – 1.3: Migration, Border Management and Citizenship

Senator Carr (L&CA 84) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: This is under the ESOS Act—the hours requirements, the work requirements, those sorts of things?

Mr Fleming: That is correct.

Senator KIM CARR: And there is an expectation that colleges will provide that information. Is that correct?

Mr Fleming: That is correct.

Senator KIM CARR: Have we got someone here who can tell me what the methodology is? [...]

Senator KIM CARR: We might have to take that on notice.

Mr Bowles: We are happy to take it on notice. [...]

Senator KIM CARR: On notice, I would like to know what your normal sampling size is and what the methodologies are. I have some interest in this and I am now going to refresh my interest, so I just want to get up to date with what your current methodologies are.

Mr Bowles: We will take all of that on notice to save bringing him back.

Answer:

Sampling is only used in certain circumstances to undertake further analysis of identified behavioural trends of concern. Sample size is dependent on the circumstances of the project.

Under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act (2000)*, education providers are required to monitor, record and assess student activities relating to course progress and attendance. If a student continues to fail course progress and attendance requirements, the provider is required to notify the department of this breach via the Provider Registration and International Students Management System (PRISMS). The department monitors student compliance via regular reports from PRISMS and takes appropriate action where required.

The department also monitors compliance through its Dob-in Service. The Immigration Dob-in Service encourages people in the community to report a person who may have overstayed their visa or may be working more hours than their visa allows.

The department also conducts integrity exercises as required, including caseload audits. These exercises utilise data to identify non-compliance activity and the department investigates accordingly.

The department operates under a discretionary cancellation framework in dealing with breaches to student visa conditions. High priority is accorded to students who have disengaged from studies and are still in Australia. Under a discretionary framework, students who breach their visa conditions are notified of an intention to cancel their visa and provided an opportunity to provide reasons why the cancellation should not occur. These reasons are taken into account in making a decision as to whether to cancel or not.