

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (BE14/333) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Of the 22 institutions selected can the department give the dates on which invitations were accepted?

- a. What is the criteria for an invitation to participate in this visa process?
- b. Does the criteria take into account either educational quality or financial stability?
- c. If not, who does take into account educational quality or financial stability?

*Answer:*

Letters were sent to eligible non-university providers on 4 November 2013 inviting them to submit an opt-in application to participate in streamlined visa processing (SVP).

Of the 22 invited non-university higher education providers, 19 providers submitted opt-in applications by the closing date of 4 December 2013 and commenced participation in the SVP arrangements on 22 March 2014. Of the remaining three:

- two of the education providers chose not to apply to participate; and
  - one education provider's application has been deferred pending further information in relation to the application assessment criteria.
- a. To be eligible to participate in the extended SVP arrangements a non-university education provider had to meet all of the following criteria:
    - be registered to deliver bachelor, masters or doctoral degree courses to international students; and
    - achieve a lower immigration risk rating equivalent to Assessment Level 1 or Assessment Level 2; and
    - is associated with at least 100 active student visas.
  - b. Immigration risk is the key determining factor when considering eligibility to participate in SVP.
  - c. Delivery of education is considered as part of the assessment process through consultation with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and the Australian Skills Qualification Authority on the regulatory compliance history of each education provider that submits an application.

The policy guidelines which underpin the SVP arrangements also require participating SVP providers to meet ongoing criteria relating to regulatory compliance. For a copy of these guidelines, see: [www.immi.gov.au/Business/Pages/education-providers/guidelines-education-provider-participation-svp-arrangemens.aspx](http://www.immi.gov.au/Business/Pages/education-providers/guidelines-education-provider-participation-svp-arrangemens.aspx).