

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: International students

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator McKenzie

QUESTION No.: AI-194

1. How much do international students contribute to the financial underpinning of our university sector?
2. What impact have the issues around student visa changes had on enrolments and financial contribution?
3. What impact has the US, Malaysian free trade agreements had on international student visa requirements?
4. If financial input from international students has decreased as a result government visa policy, what steps is the government doing to assist universities to fill the funding shortfall?

ANSWER

1. The proportion of revenue from international student fees in 2011 (for all universities combined) was 17.4 per cent.
2. International student enrolments in the higher education sector peaked in 2010 and had declined by less than 5 per cent by the end of 2012. This data does not indicate whether this is a consequence of student visa changes.
3. This question should be referred to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).
4. The Government's response to the Knight Review included several initiatives to increase the sector's global competitiveness, including streamlined visa processing and new arrangements for post-study work visas. Recent data published by DIAC show the number of higher education student visas granted to offshore applicants grew by 27 per cent in the second half of 2012, compared with the same period in 2011.