

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 3

Output Group: 3.3 – Support for the Australian education and training export industry and international relationships.

DEST Question No. E981_06

Senator Wong asked on 15 February 2006, EWRE Hansard page number 141.

Question:

(With regard to the Department's compliance and enforcement activity under the Education Services for Overseas Students [ESOS] Act 2000)

Senator WONG

I have some questions in relation to the suspension of 14 private colleges from CRICOS which I think you answered on the last occasion—actually, it was in February last year. We were advised then that 14 were suspended for violating compliance rules and that one of them had since had their registration cancelled. Could you advise what happened to the other 13, whether there have been any further cancellations and if any are still suspended.

Ms Laker

We would have to take on the notice the specifics of those particular providers. However, it has been our normal practice to update those tables for the committee each time we appear, and we have a copy of those tables here of current actions that have been taken in the last financial year.

Senator WONG

So you are not able to tell me what further action was taken in relation to the other 13?

Ms Laker

In order that I do not mislead the committee, I think it would be best if I took it on notice.

Answer:

Notices of intention to suspend registration under the ESOS Act 2000

The Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee Additional Estimates hearing on 16 February 2005 was advised that in relation to 14 providers, notices of intention had been issued, to suspend registration, not notices of suspension (EWRE 131). The cancelled provider, Wings Air Pty Ltd, was not one of the providers given a notice of intention to suspend registration.

Of the 14 notices of intention to suspend registration, 7 providers subsequently complied with the ESOS Act 2000, 1 provider demonstrated compliance and in all these cases no further action was taken. However, 6 providers sought voluntary cancellation of their registration and are no longer registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS).