

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome **6**

DEEWR Question No. EW1061_09

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked on 25 February 2009, provided in writing.

Question

Investigation of international colleges

How many international colleges are now being investigated for malpractice or other problems by the Department?

(A) where are these institutions?

(B) what sanctions are likely to result if allegations are proved?

Answer

Investigation of international colleges

The Department undertakes a range of activities in relation to problems with international education providers which are often of a minor nature. These range from simple telephone contact to site visits. The providers with whom the Department is in contact therefore may change regularly.

(A) the majority of the Department's monitoring is conducted with providers in the states that have the largest number of providers and enrolled overseas students. The three largest states in this context are New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

(B) The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (the ESOS Act) under Part 6 defines a range of enforcement powers. The specific nature of any enforcement activity depends on the particular circumstances.

Information on the Department's compliance and enforcement actions is available at:
http://www.aei.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/EnforcementActions_pdf.pdf