

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW1090_10

Senator Cormann asked on 11/02/2010, Hansard page 141.

Question

**COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF CHANGES TO SKILLED
MIGRATION LAWS**

Senator CORMANN—Can you take on notice whether you had any communications and what the nature of those communications was. The context of my questions is the announcement that the government has abolished, as of immediate effect, the Migration Occupations in Demand List, to replace it with a Skills Australia List at the end of April. I am sure that you will not say that it is just made up, Mr Chairman. There is a serious level of concern about what that will mean to the viability of a whole series of private providers operating in the international education market. I am sure you are aware of that. Mr Walters—I will take it on notice. I do not recall having seen any direct communication. Of course, people communicate with us via the media and there have been various media releases.

Answer

At the time of the announcement of the changes to the General Skilled Migration program on 8 February 2010, all direct communication with education providers was undertaken by DIAC. DEEWR posted an announcement of the changes and a series of Frequently Asked Questions on the Study in Australia (www.studyinaustralia.gov.au) and the Australian Education International (www.aei.gov.au) websites. These websites also included a link to the detailed information about the changes to migration on the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au.

Since the announcement on 8 February 2010, DEEWR has not had any direct communications from international education peak bodies, including the VET sector, on the changes to the General Skilled Migration program.