

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

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

DEST Question No. E772_06

Senator Wong asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 119

Question:

Can you take on notice how many other applications for exemption have been made over the last five years? How long has the scheme been in existence?

The question was asked in the context of an application by Bridge Business College for an Ministerial exemption from membership of a Tuition Assurance Scheme (TAS).

Answer:

Ministerial Exemption from TAS coverage

The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (the ESOS Act) took effect on 4 June 2001. Under the ESOS Act all registered providers must belong to a Tuition Assurance Scheme (TAS), unless exempted by the *Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2001* (the Regulations).

Applications for Ministerial exemption are made on a course by course basis.

Since the ESOS Act and its Regulations were introduced 70 providers have applied for a Ministerial exemption from TAS membership for 775 courses.