

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0488\_11**

**Senator Fifield provided in writing.**

**Question**

**EDUCATION SERVICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (ESOS) - FLIGHT  
SCHOOLS**

Does the Government consider it reasonable that flight schools are required to pay an up front amount based on theoretical student numbers yet are not entitled to a refund should this amount exceed what is payable on actual student numbers? Will the Government take action to rectify this situation so that flight schools are only required to pay monies to ACPET based on actual enrolments?

**Answer**

The Government's key focus is to ensure that tuition assurance scheme (TAS) operators have in place effective arrangements to ensure overseas students are offered placement in a suitable alternative course when required. The Government has no role in the private commercial charging arrangements between TAS operators and their members.

The recent review of the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*, conducted by the Hon Bruce Baird AM, made a number of recommendations concerning the consumer protection framework for overseas students. The Government's response to these recommendations is currently under consideration.