

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(11) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Barnett (L&CA 29) asked:

Did the Minister for Education talk to the education sector about the announcement of the changes to the General Skilled Migration program?

Answer:

The Department cannot comment on discussions held by the Minister for Education. However, the Department did hold discussions with the education sector.

Representatives from Universities Australia, TAFE Directors Australia and the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) were invited to attend meetings of the Skilled Migration Consultative Panel on three occasions in the second half of 2009 to discuss the review of the Migration Occupations in Demand List and the recommendations arising from the review.

An officer of the Department also briefed education representatives on the details of the changes before the announcement on 8 February 2010.