

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(59) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

If no analysis has been carried out, how can the Department address the fundamentals of the issue if it has not carried out an analysis?

[Note: It is assumed that this question is a follow up to QoN 42 and relates specifically to the decline in Indian student numbers.]

Answer:

The Department is aware of the reasons for the decline and these are outlined in the response to QoN 58.

In addition, on 16 December 2010, the Minister announced a strategic review of the Student visa program. The review is being conducted by the Hon Michael Knight AO and is tasked with enhancing the continued competitiveness of the international education sector. It will provide an important opportunity for stakeholders and education providers to share their vision of the sectors' future and make recommendations on how to address the challenges faced by the international education sector. The review will report to the Government in mid-2011.