

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/209) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Are non-university (e.g. TAFE) providers allowed to apply for streamlining?

Answer:

Yes, if invited following an assessment of their eligibility.

To be eligible to be invited to participate in the extended streamlined visa processing (SVP) arrangements a non-university education provider must:

- be registered to deliver bachelor, masters or doctoral degree courses to international students;
- achieve an immigration risk rating equivalent to Assessment Level (AL)1 or AL2; and
- be associated with at least 100 active student visas.

Once invited, the institutions decide whether to apply or not. If they apply:

- Applications are considered by an assessment panel which included representatives from the department, the Department of Education, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the Australian Skills Qualification Authority (ASQA).
- TEQSA and ASQA are consulted on the regulatory compliance history of each of the education providers that submitted an application. This ensures that an education provider is not rewarded with access to SVP while at the same time addressing serious issues related to its delivery of education.