

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

### IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

#### **(43) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Carr (L&C 53) asked:

In recent years, what is the rate of fraud that you have discovered at the Shanghai post in regard to student visas?

*Answer:*

The Department does not record fraud rates in the student visa caseload by overseas mission or office. For student visa purposes, fraud rates are recorded only by education sector and nationality. Since the implementation of reforms to the student visa program on 1 July 2001, the fraud rate has been used as one of six immigration risk factors to determine the level of risk presented by student visa applicants of all nationalities.

It should be noted that the Australian Consulate in Shanghai does not receive or process student visa applications from citizens of the People's Republic of China (PRC). All student visa applications from PRC citizens in mainland China and New Zealand are sent to and assessed by the Adelaide Offshore Student Processing Centre. This processing centre was established in Adelaide on 1 March 2002. Prior to that date, all student visa applications in mainland China were processed in the Australian Embassy in Beijing

The fraud rates for Program Years (PY) 2001-02 through to 2004-05 for citizens of the People's Republic of China are provided in Table 1 below.

The fraud rates reflect the percentage of student visa applications refused on the basis of fraud (e.g. bogus claims or fraudulent documents) in the offshore decision-making process each program year. The number of fraud refusals is expressed as a percentage of total student visa applications by education sector and nationality.

**Table 1. Student visa applications refused on the basis of fraud as a percentage of total applications**

Country of Citizenship	Education Sector	Fraud Refusal Rate (%)			
		PY 2001-02	PY 2002-03	PY 2003-04	PY 2004-05
China, People's Republic of	ELICOS	0.92	1.2	0.00	0.00
	Higher Education	2.83	4.9	1.22	0.28
	Masters / Doctorate	6.32	4.7	1.59	0.37
	Non Award / Other	3.66	6.7	1.10	0.00
	Schools	11.16	14.6	9.36	1.15
	Vocational Education and Training	4.22	7.2	2.73	0.81