

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(67) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

1. Has there been any drop off in applications from international students since hairdressing, welfare and cooking were dropped from the MODL?
2. How many colleges have been removed from CRICOS?
3. What is the trend of international Student visas being applied for and granted in 06-07, 07-08, 08-09?
4. Comparing applicants for the VET sector to the university sector what countries are they from?

Answer:

1. Hairdressing, welfare and cooking have not been removed from the Migration Occupations in Demand List. These occupations, however, are not included on the Critical Skills List introduced on 1 January 2009.

There was no drop off in the number of Student visa applications lodged in the 2008-09 program year.

In the 2007-08 program year 302,190 Student visa applications were lodged with the Department. In 2008-09 that number increased to 362,193 Student visa applications.

2. The Commonwealth Register of International Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) is administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). DEEWR advises that in the 2008-09 financial year the CRICOS registration of 78 providers was recorded as cancelled.

3. The following table lists the number of Student visa applications and grants from 2006-07 to the 2008-09 program year.

Total Student visa applications from 2006/07 to 2008/09 by program year

Year	Applications	Percentage trend on previous program year
2006-07	255,264	
2007-08	302,190	18.4
2008-09	362,193	19.8

Total Student visa grants from 2006/07 to 2008/09 by program year

Year	Visa Grants	Percentage trend on previous program year
2006-07	228,592	
2007-08	278,184	21.7
2008-09	320,368	15.2

4. The following table lists the top ten nationalities for offshore Student visa grants in the VET and Higher Education sectors for the 2008-09 program year.

Top ten nationalities for offshore Student visa grants in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education Sectors 2008-09 program year

Vocational Education and Training Sector		Higher Education Sector	
Citizenship	Visa Grants	Citizenship	Visa Grants
India	31,451	China, Peoples Republic	22,978
Nepal	9,439	India	22,366
China, Peoples Republic	4,826	Malaysia	6,133
Republic of Korea	3,318	Vietnam	5,417
Indonesia	2,054	Saudi Arabia	3,859
Thailand	1,800	Singapore	2,815
Pakistan	1,446	HKSAR of the PRC	2,695
Mauritius	1,410	Indonesia	2,584
Philippines	1,358	Sri Lanka	2,052
Bangladesh	935	Republic of Korea	1,753
Others	11,119	Others	18,207
Total	69,156	Total	90,859