

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE11/0148) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

How does the department intend to monitor vulnerable students who may not be able to continue to afford to meet the live-in tuition and transport costs yet have provided a statutory declaration that they were able to? What monitoring will you have in place?

*Answer:*

All student visa applicants have to satisfy financial capacity requirements prior to being granted a visa. The evidence needed to meet these requirements differs according to the Assessment Level of the applicant. For example, Assessment Level 1 (lowest migration risk) applicants must declare that they have access to sufficient funds to support themselves and their family members for the total period of their stay in Australia.

International education services are governed by the *Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000*. Under the streamlined arrangements, as with existing arrangements, registered providers are required under the ESOS Act to report on a range of matters relating to accepted students, including any breach of student visa conditions. Reporting by registered providers is integrated with the Department's visa integrity and compliance systems to assist in the management of the student visa program.

As part of the ESOS framework, the *National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007* (the National Code) provides nationally consistent standards for the conduct of registered providers and the registration of their courses. Under the National Code, education providers are required to meet a number of obligations, including the provision of access to welfare related support services at no additional cost to international students.