Tuition Protection Service update – DIISRTE

Legislative Instruments
The TPS legislative instruments have been made by the Minister and are ready to take effect from 1 July 2012. These instruments are necessary for the operation of the TPS including: the calculation of refunds; requirements for notifying and reporting on defaults; exemptions from paying components of the TPS levy; guidance to the TPS Director in determining a ‘suitable alternative course’; how payments will be made from the Overseas Student Tuition Fund; and notifying DIAC when a student has received a refund.

The instruments, and their corresponding explanatory statements which explain their effect and purpose, are now available on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI).

Regulations
Have now been finalised and are also registered on FRLI.
These include information on CRICOS related to course by location and tuition fees and information on PRISMS to support the calculation of a partial refund.

TPS Director
As you will be aware from the media release forwarded earlier today, following a competitive, external process, Mr Vipan Mahajan has been appointed TPS Director. Many of you will know Vipan through his work as General Manager of AEI’s South and South East Asia and Scholarships Branch as well as managing the provider closures taskforce. Vipan will take leave from the public service to take up this statutory appointment. Vipan will be located in Canberra and supported by the new TPS Secretariat located within AEI.

TPS Administrator
The tender process has been finalised and an announcement from the TPS Director will be made shortly after his appointment officially commences on 1 July.

TPS Manager
Mr Craig Johnson has been appointed as TPS Manager. Craig will move from his role as Director, Strategic Support within AEI’s International Quality Branch. Craig has led the team responsible for much of the TPS implementation so brings great experience to his new role.

TPS Secretariat
Positions have been filled with staff formally commencing in these roles from 1 July.

TPS Advisory Board
Appointments are expected to be finalised in time for the Board to meet and provide advice to the TPS Director in relation to the 2013 Levy.

TPS online system
All testing has been completed and the system will be live from midnight Saturday night. Link will be www.tps.gov.au
Communications

A significant amount of communication activity has been undertaken recently. Some key elements:

- A TPS brochure for students is currently in final stages of publication. It will be available on the TPS website and distributed in hard copy at the upcoming CISA conference and other key events. The student brochure is also being published online in the languages of the major countries of origin for international students: Mandarin Chinese (simplified), Hindi, Hangul, Bahasa Indonesia, and Vietnamese.
- Updates to PEO’s through PRISMS supplemented by a hard copy mailout to all providers with copies of the Provider and Student brochures on the ESOS reforms.
- Regular updating of the FAQs on the AEI website.
- Redevelopment of the ESOS elements of the AEI website. New information includes, an updated ESOS home page categorised into Legislation, Standards, Provider Registration, Information for Students, updates to reflect the recent transition of functions to TEQSA and ASQA and links to the new Tuition Protection website.
- Grants provided to nine international education sector bodies, including TDA to undertake projects to support their constituency to transition to the new arrangements.

Links to Legislative Instruments

Education Services for Overseas Students (Calculation of unspent pre-paid fees – provider default) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


The Education Services for Overseas Students (Calculation of unspent pre-paid fees - other cases) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (Suitable Alternative Courses) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (TPS Levies) (Levy exemptions) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (Notifying provider default - requirements for a notice) Determination 2012 (No. 1)

Education Services for Overseas Students (Provider default - discharge of obligations - requirements for a notice) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (Notification of student default - requirements for a notice) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (Student default - discharge of obligations - requirements for a notice) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (Calls on the OSTF - requirements for payments) Determination 2012 (No. 1)


Education Services for Overseas Students (TPS Director to notify Immigration Secretary of payment of refunds)