

ESOS statistics

Some 94% of international education providers have to date applied for re-registration (1226 out of 1313) under changes to the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act. So far 24 have been formally recommended for re-registration while 401 providers have been asked by their relevant State or Territory Authority to carry out a self-assessment. These self-assessments in many cases will be followed up by site visits.

At the Canberra meeting DEEWR also presented statistics on college closures. The following data raises some significant questions for all stakeholders and the future management of college closures.

2009: 16 college closures with 5,795 students displaced. 64% were offered an alternative course through the relevant TAS with 10% rejecting the offer/s. 24% of displaced students were referred to the ESOS Fund for a refund of course fees for the portion of their course still to be delivered.

2010: 15 college closures with 3,713 students displaced. So far 51% have been offered an alternative course through the relevant TAS and 6% have been referred to the ESOS Fund.

The audited accounts of the ESOS Fund for 2009 are due for release shortly and can be found here: http://esosassurancefund.com.au/financial_statistics.html. The Fund has recently been topped up with an increase in member contributions, a special levy on members which raised \$1 million and a Federal Government line of credit to the value of \$5.1 million.

The planned review of Tuition Assurance Schemes and the ESOS Fund as recommended by the Baird Review is being led by DEEWR and an industry consultation process will shortly be announced.