



Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Monday 17 February 2014

Dear Minister,

As representatives of the eight international education industry associations, we write to raise our genuine concerns with the recent Genuine Temporary Entrant review conducted by your department. Each of our associations have been members, since its inception, of the DIBP chaired Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC). For the past two years, we have met quarterly with senior public servants of your Department in a spirit of collaboration and to further the interests of Australia's world class international education sector. The Genuine Temporary Entrant criterion (GTE) has been a key Agenda item at each of our meetings.

You may therefore understand our surprise and concern when each of us received an email on 23rd January from DIBP Assistant Secretary, Sophie Montgomery (Chair of the EVCC), informing us that a review of the effectiveness of the GTE requirement had been finalised and already endorsed by you. While we have long called for a review of the GTE, it has always been our understanding that such a review would, of necessity, include consultation with relevant stakeholders and affected parties.

Ms Montgomery's email of 23rd January states that "Evidence demonstrates that the GTE requirement is meeting its policy objectives". This, together with other references to key findings of the review, lead us to question how such determinations have been made? The final sentence of her email states, "We are happy for any comments you may have and I look forward to discussing the review with you at the next EVCC meeting." Unfortunately, given that the first we knew of this review being conducted was when the published document was attached to Ms Montgomery's email, you will understand that the invitation to comment smacks of 'consultation after the horse has already bolted'.

For the above reasons, we now request that you agree to the review being referred to only as a working document until such time as consultation on its content has occurred and our industry's input considered. Some of us have already had worthwhile separate meetings with your Chief of Staff, Brooke Thomas, on other matters associated with your portfolio. We have appreciated her open and frank manner in such meetings. Perhaps a way in which we could advance our issues associated with the GTE review might be for us to meet with Brooke as a group and ascertain what meaningful action we can take going forward.

We would appreciate a response to this important issue of concern at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Field
Chief Executive Officer
ACPET



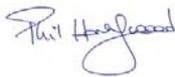
Elizabeth Webber
Chair
AGSI



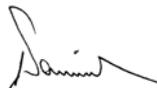
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IEAA



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