



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann *Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

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DON'T PUT PRIDE AHEAD OF OUTCOMES MINISTER!

The Rudd government should immediately pass important legislation to improve the quality of education services for overseas students in Australia through the House of Representatives.

The Senate this afternoon passed the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Re-registration of Providers and Other Measures) Bill 2009 with two key amendments.

"Julia Gillard should put aside her pride and start taking some action in the interest of the third largest export industry in Australia and of overseas students," Shadow Training Minister Mathias Cormann said.

"This is important legislation. We want to see it implemented as soon as possible," he said.

"The government has been dragging its feet for too long.

"Since introducing this legislation into Parliament in August last year the Rudd government has done nothing to progress it through the Senate.

"Only after yet another private training college collapsed on the Rudd government's watch earlier this week did the government finally bring this legislation on for debate in the Senate (on Wednesday 3 February).

"The Senate today supported our amendment to ensure proper risk-management principles are applied when prioritising education providers for re-registration.

"This will help ensure the auditing process is more rigorous.

The Coalition also supported a Xenophon/Greens amendment enabling the government to make arrangements for 'consequential costs' incurred by the victims of private training colleges collapsing.

"This is the time for the Rudd government to make a decision.

"Will they be dinkum about necessary reform to education services for overseas students? Or was this legislation just part of Julia Gillard's political strategy of being 'seen to be doing something' while doing nothing?" Senator Cormann asked.

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