



Media Release

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

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MORE EDUCATION COLLEGES AT RISK OF CLOSURE

Labor's poorly thought out changes to skilled migration have created significant uncertainty for our international education sector and will put more private training colleges under pressure.

"To abolish the current 'Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL)' without replacing it with anything until April at the earliest creates inappropriate and unnecessary uncertainty for both training providers and students," Senator Cormann said.

"International education is a \$15.5 billion business for Australia," he said.

"At present it is the third largest export industry for Australia; not for much longer if the Rudd government continues to mismanage the regulatory framework for the industry.

"The international education sector essentially finds itself in no-mans land – from today until the government releases the supposedly 'new and more targeted Skills Occupations List (SOL)'.

"Together with some of the previous changes and developments this will result in a significant reduction in educational exports.

"The education services industry has already been significantly impacted by Rudd government changes to student visa processing and to the skills assessment and job readiness process for students who have completed a course of study in Australia.

"No doubt this latest change will put some colleges under financial pressure. There is a real risk that this will cause further private training colleges to close with further job losses in the industry.

"Some changes were required. However the government clearly did not properly consult the education services industry and did not think some of the transition issues through properly.

"The flippant and unpredictable way the Rudd Labor government has handled this will again negatively impact on our reputation as an education services provider overseas.

"Good solid providers and overseas students across Australia will again find themselves caught in the middle," Senator Cormann said.

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