



Media Release

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

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Time for action on international education services

There will be no improvements to international education services unless the government starts taking some action Shadow Training Minister Mathias Cormann said.

"The Rudd government has been provided with yet another review – this time on education services to overseas students," Senator Cormann said.

"We welcome the report released by the Deputy Prime Minister earlier today," he said.

"However it's critically important that this will not be just another report gathering dust on a bookshelf in a Labor Minister's office somewhere.

"The *Stronger, simpler, smarter ESOS: supporting international students* report is a sound road map for government to finally take some action.

"The Coalition has been calling for some time for a comprehensive risk management approach to international education services and this report very much points in that direction.

"Having only just received a copy of the report we will consider it before finalising our position on any legislation the government may put forward.

"The Rudd government is exposed on this issue. They've been in government for two and a half years now, yet so far they have not taken any tangible action other than to top up the ESOS Assurance fund with \$5.1 million given the pressure it was under from colleges collapsing.

"Legislation to provide for re-registration of international education services providers lingered in Parliament for more than 6 months before finally passing during the last sitting fortnight.

"Why is it taking so long to take action on shonky education providers and education agents?"

"We've had college after college collapse, the ESOS Assurance fund had to be topped up twice – first by providers and then by the Rudd government. Yet shonky providers are still operating and shonky education agents are still out there doing business.

"This is a complete mess. Solid and reliable providers are getting caught up in this because the Rudd government has been too slow in restoring confidence in this important export industry," Senator Cormann said.

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