Acting Deputy Secretary
Jessie Borthwick

Mr Jason McNamara
Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr McNamara

Regulation Impact Statement – final assessment second pass

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for the proposed changes to the Education for Overseas Students (ESOS) framework (OBPR No. 17028). The regulatory burden to business, community organisations and/or individuals has been quantified using the Regulatory Burden Measurement framework. These have been agreed with your office.

I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the key concerns raised in your letter of 28 August 2015:

- **Demonstrating that the preferred option is likely to result in the greatest net benefit**

    The rationale for option 4 (i), the preferred option, has been strengthened throughout the RIS to demonstrate why it results in the greatest net benefit of all those options considered in the RIS.

    While option 2 utilises a risk-based approach, it is not a viable option for a number of compelling reasons as outlined in the strengthened section 8.3 of the RIS, including that no existing government entity is designated or resourced to administer it.

- **Clarifying the calculation of time savings for providers**
    The explanation of the calculation of time taken for certain administrative tasks associated with the imposition of the 50 per cent limit on fees paid prior to a student commencing a course has been strengthened.

- **Making transparent the status of the RIS at major decision points**
    A summary of the RIS status at each decision point has now been included at the end of section 5.3 of the RIS.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS is compliant with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation*.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

Jessie Borthwick
Acting Deputy Secretary
Department of Education and Training
3 September 2015