



Factsheet – TAFE Providers and Ministerial Direction No. 111

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the quality, integrity and sustainability of Australia’s international education sector. Arrangements to improve the integrity and sustainability of the sector are set out in the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024 (ESOS Bill).

The ESOS Bill did not pass Parliament in time for arrangements to be implemented by 1 January 2025, and the proposed amendments are therefore not in operation.

However, the Government remains committed to managing the sector at sustainable levels. The introduction of [Ministerial Direction No. 111](#) on 19 December 2024 is consistent with the Government’s intent and prioritises student visa applications in a fair and efficient way.

In 2024, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations informed VET providers of their 2025 indicative new overseas student commencement (NOSC) allocations. These allocations guide the prioritisation process for offshore student visa processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111.

More information about Ministerial Direction No. 111 can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website.

Visa applications from students enrolled with a TAFE Provider

Visa applications from students enrolled with a TAFE Provider will receive continuous high priority (Priority 1) processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111. This ensures TAFE Providers can grow their share of the onshore international student market, in turn supporting the development of offshore delivery opportunities. TAFE Providers have an established reputation for quality and integrity and increasing their capacity in international education delivery will lift the quality and integrity of the entire sector.

A TAFE Provider means a public vocational education and training provider which is a body established to provide VET under Australian state or territory legislation.

Visa applications from students enrolled with TAFE Providers will always be given Priority 1 (high) processing status by Department of Home Affairs decision makers, regardless of whether a TAFE Provider has reached its Prioritisation Threshold. This also remains the case, regardless of the

Prioritisation Category displayed on the Summary Tab¹ of a TAFE Provider's NOSC Report when downloaded in PRISMS.

The Department of Home Affairs decision makers will never apply Priority 2 (standard) processing to visa applications from VET students enrolled with a TAFE Provider.

For higher education and VET providers, the Prioritisation Threshold refers to 80 per cent of an individual provider's 2025 indicative NOSC allocation.

TAFE Providers are not required to do anything in order for continuous Priority 1 processing to apply. TAFE Providers established under state or territory legislation have already been identified in Department of Home Affairs systems and Priority 1 processing status will automatically apply to all visa applications from students enrolled with these VET providers.

For dual sector TAFE Providers, visa applications from students enrolled in higher education courses will be processed subject to the Prioritisation Threshold and Priority 2 processing will apply for these visa applications once a dual sector TAFE Provider's threshold has been reached.

Where a student is enrolling with a TAFE Provider as part of a packaged program that includes a non-TAFE Provider, the visa application will be processed according to the prioritisation status (Priority 1 or Priority 2) of the provider delivering the principal course.

Indicative 2025 NOSC allocations are published on the department's website and continue to be available in PRISMS.

Questions about student visa application processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111 for students enrolled with a TAFE Provider can be directed to strategicframework@dewr.gov.au.

¹ The Summary Tab provides information on indicative allocations and NOSCs. It also provides information to support providers in the implementation of Ministerial Direction No. 111 (which is administered by the Department of Home Affairs), by displaying a provider's 'Prioritisation Percentage' and 'Offshore Visa Processing Prioritisation Category'.