



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

ISANA & IEAA Under 18 Masterclass - PRISMS

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Return of International Students

- On 8 May 2020 the Prime Minister announced a three-step road map to a COVID safe Australia.
- The road map is dependent on significant and sustained suppression of COVID-19 case numbers and the ability to rapidly contain any outbreaks or community transmission of the virus.
- Currently school students and their guardians in mainland China can apply for exemptions to the travel ban and return to Australia.
- Exemption requests are made through state education departments.

Fee relief for CRICOS providers

- CRICOS Annual Registration Charge and Entry to Market Charge invoiced and paid from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 has been refunded.
- 2020 TPS Levy collection was delayed until August 2020.
- All CRICOS registered providers will be exempt from the 2021 Annual Registration Charge collection and exempt from Entry to Market Charge payments due from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Flexibility in Regulation

- Regulators and Government implemented a flexible regulatory approach:
 - Online education – Regulators are not enforcing limits
 - Allowing compassionate and compelling circumstances for deferrals and suspensions of study
 - Extending timeframes for reporting obligations to support continued delivery
 - Changes to visa rules for students impacted by COVID-19
- ***Ensuring quality of education delivery and outcomes remains the Government's commitment.***

PRISMS Overview

- Stores information about registered providers and courses which is publicly available via the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS);
- Is a means for controlling student visa grants. Students must have an approved Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) record in order to obtain a student visa;
- Is the means for reporting student breaches. Students that do not comply with visa requirements are brought to Home Affairs' attention via PRISMS;
- Facilitates providers' compliance with the ESOS Act.

Jony applies to study in Australia

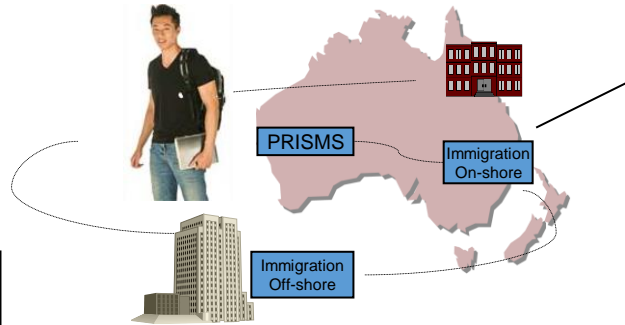
1. In Japan, Jony decides to apply to study a Diploma of Business at Central Queensland Institute of TAFE.

2. Central Queensland Institute of TAFE accepts Jony's application, creates a CoE on PRISMS and emails a copy to Jony in Japan.

Jony's enrolment data is now stored on PRISMS as an approved offshore CoE

APPROVED

Provider: Central Queensland Institute of TAFE (015812C)
Course: Diploma of Business (15425F)
Start: 01/03/2015
End: 01/12/2016
Visa Grant Information:



3. Details of Jony's enrolment are transmitted to Immigration's system offshore, usually within 10 minutes of being created

4. Jony applies online for his visa.

5. The relevant Immigration office grants Jony a student visa covering the period of study on the CoE(s)

6. Visa Grant information, linked to the relevant CoE(s), is transmitted back to Australia.

7. Visa details sent to PRISMS Nightly and PRISMS updates the status. Jony's CoE status

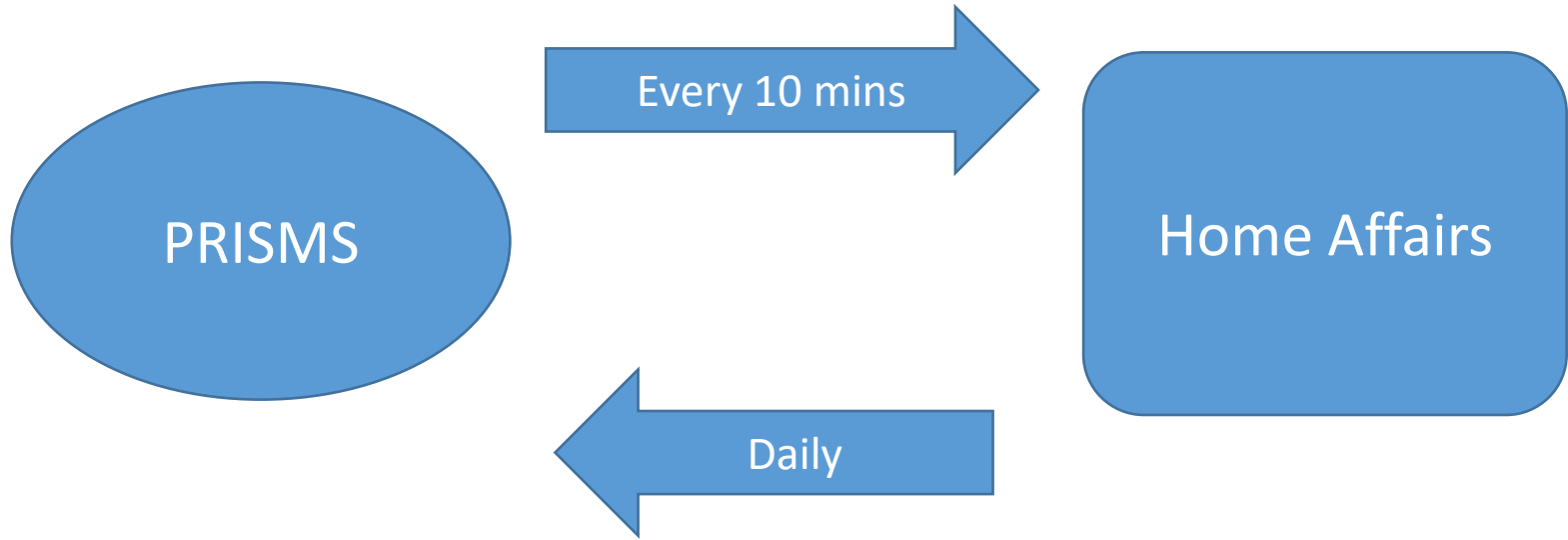
VISA GRANTED

Provider: Central Queensland Institute of TAFE (015812C)
Course: Diploma of Business (15425F)
Start: 01/03/2015
End: 01/12/2016
Visa Grant Information: Visa No. 1234567

CoE Status

- Saved – Incomplete CoEs
- Pending – CoEs waiting for approval
- Approved – CoEs approved by CoE Administrators
- Visa Granted – CoEs with a visa grant from Immigration
- Studying – CoEs where start date has passed
- Finished – CoEs where end date has passed
- Cancelled – CoEs cancelled because of action by Immigration; SCV by provider; or error by provider
- Expired – CoEs where **180 days** has passed the course start date and student doesn't have a valid student visa for offshore students.

PRISMS – Home Affairs interaction



PRISMS in the COVID-19 World

- PRISMS was designed for a (relatively) straightforward international education system – students study full time onshore.
- COVID-19, and the required flexibility in regulations, has created a difficult situation for everyone, including those of you using PRISMS and us managing the system.
- Regulators, the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment are using PRISMS as normal.

PRISMS in the COVID-19 World – General Advice

- When in doubt – leave a comment/note and specifically reference COVID-19/Coronavirus
 - This includes changes to welfare, SCVs, manual commencements, etc.
- If a student is studying online, especially if they are offshore, please make note of this on the CoE (under Student Details -> Comments)
- **The remainder of this presentation is general in nature, and may not fit your specific circumstance.**
- **Please comply with all requirements the Department of Home Affairs and your state regulators.**

PRISMS in the COVID-19 World

View/Edit Student [REDACTED]

Use this page to view student details and edit provider specific student information. Most student details may only be edited during the initial creation of a new Student / CoE. Please contact the Department of Education, Skills and Employment to have any read-only details modified.

Student Summary Student Contacts CoE(s)

Provider's Student ID: PHA00059373

Department of Home Affairs Information
This student's data has been confirmed

Title: Miss
First Name: [REDACTED]
Second Name:
Family Name: [REDACTED]
Gender: Female
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Country of Birth:
Nationality:
Country of Passport:
Passport Number:

Comments: Student moved to onshore online studying due to COVID-19 on 15 May 2020
Student returned to in-class study on 15 August 2020

Created:
Updated:

Save Student

Offshore students – commencing students

- Offshore CoEs that are in the Visa Granted status automatically move to Studying once the student's commencement date has passed.
 - Visa Granted status is achieved when the CoE's details are matched with visa details from the Department of Home Affairs.
- Schools may have students that commenced offshore using online learning and had a CoE that was in the Approved Status.
- These CoEs can be manually updated to Studying status by using the 'Confirm Study Commencement' button on the Student Detail tab.
- Providers using this function should include a note on the CoE stating that the student commenced online study and the date of commencement.

Offshore students – commencing students

View/Edit CoE [REDACTED] (APPROVED)

Use this page to view and edit details relating to an existing Confirmation-of-Enrolment (CoE). The status of the CoE determines the amount of information that you may edit.

Enrolment Details | **Student Details** | Course Variation/Defaults | CoE Event History | Student Contacts | Agent Details

Student: [REDACTED]
Provider's Student ID [REDACTED]
Title: [REDACTED]
First Name: [REDACTED]
Second Name: [REDACTED]
Family Name: [REDACTED]
Gender: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Country of Birth: [REDACTED]
Nationality: [REDACTED]
Country of Passport: [REDACTED]
Passport Number: [REDACTED]

Comments: [REDACTED] Student commenced studying offshore online due to COVID-19 on 9 July 2020
These comments are for provider use only - they do not appear on the CoE Certificate

Created:
Updated:

Confirm Study Commencement

Onshore students – CAAW flexibility

- COVID-19 has created a situation where providers may be required to change welfare arrangements rapidly to reflect changing circumstances.
- Changes to CAAWs can fall into two broad categories:
 - Temporary changes to CAAWs, e.g. changing addresses or homestay information to cover temporary events, can be made in existing CAAWs using the 'Change of Accommodation/ Welfare Letter' function in PRISMS.
 - Permanent changes to CAAWs (such as a change in welfare arrangements) can be made via cancellation and re-creation of the CAAW.
- **Please ensure that Department of Home Affairs welfare requirements are met regardless of what is done in PRISMS.**

Simple COVID-19 Scenario

- Sally was due to start year 10 in June 2020. Her CoE is in Studying status.
- Sally's provider is taking responsibility for her welfare, and she has a CAAW in PRISMS
- She has a valid visa, but has not been able to travel to Australia.
- Sally has commenced studying at her Australian school via online learning, like many of her Australian peers.
- How should Jessica's CoE be handled in PRISMS?
 1. SCV to defer her commencement and the CAAW, because she is offshore and therefore not covered under ESOS?
 2. Allow her CoE to remain in Studying status, and note in PRISMS that she is currently studying offshore?

Simple COVID-19 Scenario

- Answer: **either is correct**, but please be consistent.
- It is valid to SCV the CoE to defer commencement, particularly if the student will not be coming onshore until next year. Any changes to her CAAW can be made now, or before she travels to Australia.
- It is also valid to allow the CoE to move to Studying and note the student is studying online. Her CAAW can be left as is or modified.
- The decision may have impacts, however:
 - SCV may mean the protected amount needs to be retained, refund requirements are different, and that the student is treated as an intending international student under the ESOS framework.
 - Studying means the student is consuming tuition fees and is covered by ESOS framework, including the National Code, to the extent it can apply offshore.

Q&A session

- Thank you for your time today.
- Liz and I are now available for questions.
- If we can't answer anything today, or if you have further questions, please contact PRISMS@dese.gov.au