

Administration of the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) in the Northern Territory

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Within the education authority of most Australian states and territories, there is a specific division or unit that is charged with monitoring international activities in education institutions. In all states and territories there are authorities within and outside education departments and higher education institutions that look after the registration of education institutions in receipt of recurrent Commonwealth funds. In addition there are state and territory registering authorities for private provider registration in each education sector.

While the method of registering providers and maintaining the CRICOS register varies from State to State, whichever organisation is responsible must carry out its business to the satisfaction of the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) and the Federal Minister. In the Northern Territory, the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) looks after registration and compliance matters for all education sectors including higher education, VET, TAFE and schools. International Services Branch (ISB) is the unit within the Department that is responsible for recommending eligible providers of services to overseas students to DEST for listing on the CRICOS Register, maintaining the NT CRICOS Register and monitoring the compliance of CRICOS Registered education service providers in the Northern Territory.

The methodology used by ISB to audit providers for recommendation to DEST for listing on the CRICOS Register and for ongoing monitoring is in line with requirements specified by the Commonwealth and agreed to by state and territory ministers through the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). DEET has developed, in consultation with the other states and territories, an EDUCATION SERVICES for OVERSEAS STUDENTS (ESOS) Compliance and Evidence Guide for NT Education Providers. It details what the NT CRICOS Register holder must audit to determine if a provider is compliant with the conditions of the ESOS Act 2000, the National Code and therefore eligible to be listed on CRICOS and able to offer fee for service courses to full fee paying overseas students.

Once a Provider has been allocated a CRICOS number, eligible courses, duration and costs are listed and updated, as appropriate, by the relevant officer in ISB. Registered providers are audited by ISB and DEST / DIMA at least once every 5 years or on complaint.

The applicable sections of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (The National Code) are:

- 7 *The National Code applies to all registered providers of education and training services to students from*

overseas who come to Australia to study on a student visa¹. These providers are required to be registered on CRICOS. The Authority in each State will apply the National Code in their role of approving providers and courses to be entered on CRICOS. The National Code complements existing national quality assurance frameworks in education and training where appropriate, including the Australian Recognition Framework (for registered vocational education and training providers)² and the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes. Protocol 5 of the National Protocols addresses the endorsement of courses of higher education to be delivered to overseas students. The relevant provisions of this Code are consistent with Protocol 5. This Code also complements existing best practice codes used by organisations operating in the education and training export industry.

- 9 *The National Code's purpose is to provide nationally consistent standards for CRICOS registration and for the conduct of CRICOS-registered providers.*
- 11 *The National Code is for use by both registered providers and education Authorities. Part B establishes a set of requirements for CRICOS registration of providers and courses. These requirements will guide the Authority in approving providers for registration on CRICOS. They complement State legislative and administrative pre-conditions for CRICOS registration. A provider must meet all relevant State requirements and the provisions of this Code in order to be approved for the purposes of registration on CRICOS, and to maintain their registration.*

- 12 *Part C places obligations on all providers who wish to be registered on CRICOS or to remain registered on CRICOS. The provider's compliance with these obligations will be assessed by the Authority prior to registration and re-registration on CRICOS, as well as during mid-term compliance audits.*
- 13 *The Secretary will register a provider on CRICOS only where the provider has been approved by the Authority for the State, to provide education or training to overseas students in that State. Only where the provider to be registered has been found to comply with all the requirements for registration under the relevant State legislation, and with the requirements of the National Code, may the provider be registered on CRICOS.*

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