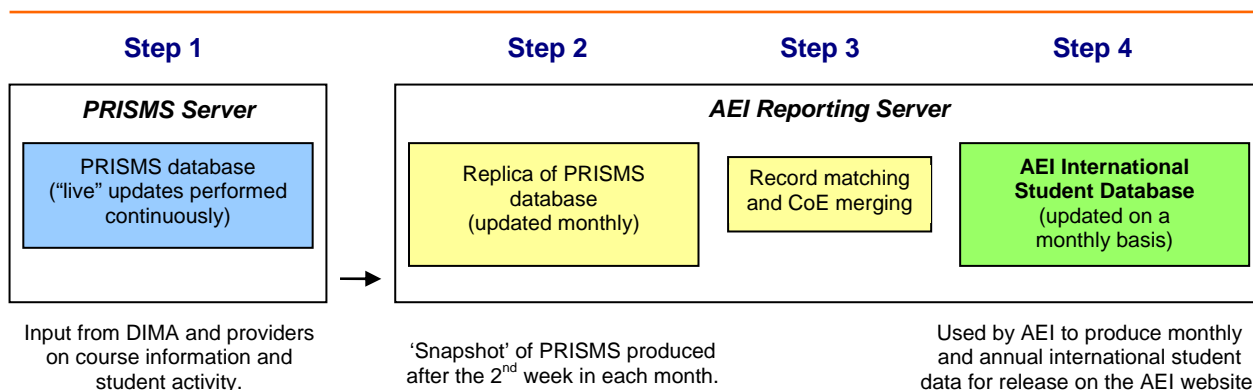




Production of AEI International Student Data—Explanatory Note

This explanatory note has been produced in response to approaches from the Australian international education and training industry to provide information about the derivation of Australian Education International's (AEI) monthly and annual data on international student enrolments and commencements (for students studying on a student visa). AEI's international student data are derived from the Department of Education, Science and Training's (DEST) Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS) database. International student data derived from PRISMS are based on Confirmation of Enrolments (CoEs). They include student enrolment data from all 1,200 providers registered on the Commonwealth Register for Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) to teach students on a student visa in any sector (Higher Education, Vocational and Technical Education, Schools and ELICOS).

There are four main steps involved in converting the information held on PRISMS into AEI's international student data. These steps are summarised in the following diagram and explained in more detail below.



Step 1 Every time an overseas student is enrolled in a CRICOS registered course to study in Australia, a CoE is generated by the relevant education and training institution (provider) on the PRISMS database.

Statutory regulations require that CoE information is always up-to-date and reflects the correct status of the student. Updates to this information can be made by providers, DEST or the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA). Updates by providers must be made every time the student's enrolment details change—for example, where the student changes their course. This information comes to DEST in "live" time. Updates generated by DIMA include the granting of a new visa against a CoE or when the student leaves the country. The DIMA system updates PRISMS with these amendments every 24 hours.

Step 2 AEI produces a snapshot of the PRISMS database two weeks after the end of the reference month. This process replicates PRISMS, effectively 'freezing' the data at that particular point in time.

Step 3 The snapshot file produced in Step 2 is transferred to the AEI reporting server. A process of matching student enrolment records* and new CoE information is undertaken

to ensure that the latest student enrolment data are on AEI's international student database. This process can take up to two weeks. Only information on enrolments of students who have *started studying and completed at least 10% of their course* is included in AEI international student data.

Step 4 Once the data are confirmed as complete, AEI produces a new set of current year monthly files which include the latest month's data and any revised data for earlier periods. From these, AEI produces a standard set of tables and a summary analysis incorporating the latest monthly data. Two *Excel* Pivot tables of the data are also produced. All these products are made available on the AEI website the day after the data are cleared for release by the Minister for Education, Science and Training. This usually occurs between four to six weeks after the end of the reference month.

Note: As PRISMS is a "live" database, it is not uncommon for the data to change from month to month—providers are required to report any changes to a student's enrolment within a required timeframe under section 19 of the ESOS Act. It should also be noted that the information retrieved by AEI from the PRISMS database is still protected by privacy laws. Information on individual providers or students is not publicly available.

* For further details on the record matching or 'cleanup' of student enrolment details and CoE information, see the 'Counting Methodology' section of the *Explanatory Notes for AEI International Student Data* at <http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/MIP/Statistics/StudentEnrolmentAndVisaStatistics/Explanatory.htm>.

More information on AEI data is available at: <http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/MIP/Statistics/Default.htm>.