I do not think the current system of only making criminal checks if the student admits to a criminal history overseas is satisfactory. This is probably a well known fact among overseas students, that “if you don’t tell them, they won’t check and they’ll never know.” This means that we could be registering undesirables into the medical system.

I feel that option 2 on page 8 is the only solution – that ALL international students are to provide a police clearance certificate prior to registration – and to submit it with their registration application. Cost should not be the issue here – the safety of patients is the prime concern, and it only needs one person to slip through the system to cause irreparable damage.

Option 4 should not be considered. Random compliance checks are not a deterrent. The ATO does “random” checks on taxpayers, and everyone knows that – but they still lodge false returns – hoping they won’t be the one that gets caught out. They’re still willing to take that chance. And regardless of the well publicised audits, the ATO is never short of work – catching out people deliberately doing the wrong thing and giving false information. It is also true that a lot of taxpayers who do the wrong thing don’t get caught “in the net” and do get away with it. Sorry, but I can’t agree with this option – tried and tested in other areas and doesn’t work.

Regards

J John