Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000164

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Audit the utilisation of VET FEE-Help by providers

Question

Does the Department audit the utilisation of VET FEE-HELP by providers?
a. When was the last compliance audit undertaken?
b. What Departmental resources are provided for auditing?
c. Has the Department analysed the effectiveness of the level of auditing and resourcing this work?
d. Are RTOs required to provide evidence of student participation (rolls, assignment results) in order to access VET FEE-HELP?

Answer

The department audits the utilisation of VET FEE-HELP by providers through reconciling VET FEE-HELP advance payments made to providers against reported student liability data annually.

a) The department conducted a number of compliance audits of providers on 28 April 2015 and has undertaken a number of spot checks since.

b) Twelve departmental resources currently conduct compliance activity on a daily basis as part of their provider management tasks. On 12 March 2015 the Government announced a range of measures to reform VET FEE-HELP to protect vulnerable students, taxpayers, the reputation of the sector, and the vast majority of providers that are doing the right thing. $18.2 million in extra funding for compliance was committed in the 2015-16 Budget.

c) The department is developing a revised compliance strategy to monitor the implementation of these reforms.

d) RTOs are required to provide evidence of enrolment, participation after the census date and student completion.