

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000562

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Providers requesting an exemption or extension

Question

Have any providers requested an exemption or extension to the cap? If yes, how many? Which providers?

How many extensions or exemptions have been granted? If any exemptions have been granted, please provide details.

How many extensions or exemptions have been refused? Please provide details.

Answer

As at the end of February 2016, the Department of Education and Training has received just under 80 queries about the cap, and approximately 60 of these make a request for additional cap.

The extent and quality of information provided, however, varies quite considerably.

The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* provides a specific framework for calculating notional loan account amounts, and only quite specific arrangements by which the statutory calculation may be varied.

The department is preparing guidelines for the consideration of requests for additional loan account amounts, in the interests of ensuring a robust, transparent, fair and consistent process. Those guidelines are expected to be published shortly, together with information on where and how particular requests may be lodged. These guidelines will be available on the HELP Resources for Provider's page of the department's website at www.education.gov.au/help-resources-providers.

As at 21 March 2016 no requests have been granted or refused.

The department treats the commercial information of providers in confidence.