

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000571**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Ban on incentives such as laptops and iPads***

**Question**

What steps has the Department taken to enforce the ban on incentives such as laptops and iPads to students to sign up to courses?

How many staff does the Department have working on the monitoring and enforcement of this ban?

**Answer**

Since the 1 April 2015 when inducements were prohibited, the Department of Education and Training has undertaken a number of steps including:

- provider education and awareness activities encompassing face to face information sessions, webinars, printed material and training sessions to advise of the changes to the guidelines
- joint action with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in the Federal Court against a number of providers accused of using incentives to encourage enrolments
- audits of providers and sample surveys of students to ascertain whether inducements had been used as part of the enrolment process.

As at 29 February 2016, there were 13 staff in the compliance area of the department's VET FEE-HELP branch involved in a range of compliance monitoring activities including responses to complaints and targeted student feedback relating to the ban on incentives.