

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International

Department of Education Question No. ED0061_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Minister Pyne speech to the Business Higher Education Round Table

Question

In a speech to the Business Higher Education Round Table, Minister Pyne said the following: "For the first time in Australian history, students studying at any registered higher education provider will have their place directly supported by the Australian Government. This includes higher education students at public and private universities, TAFEs and private education colleges. It also includes all accredited higher education diplomas and advanced diplomas as well as associate degrees and degrees." Can the Department confirm that, as the Minister says, "students studying at any registered higher education provider will have their place directly supported by the Australian Government"? Does this mean that CSP funding will be available as the Minister describes? What is meant by the term "registered" as used by the Minister? Is he referring to the TEQSA register? If not, what is he referring to?

Answer

From 1 January 2016, all higher education institutions registered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) will be able to provide Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) for eligible students. This will cover students undertaking an accredited higher education bachelor, diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree course.

The Government has established working groups to advise on implementation of the measures announced in the Budget. One of the working groups, the Quality, Deregulation and Information Working Group, led by Professor Peter Shergold, is providing advice on the eligibility of private universities and non-university higher education institutions (including international universities) for funding under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme.