

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. ED0370_15

Senator Whish-Wilson asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 74

Private and higher education providers in Tasmania

Question

Senator WHISH-WILSON: I understand that. In classic terms, you are right. Corporatisation, perhaps; we could throw some different words around. The consultation starts now, but you have already released the policy in the context of the budget. In terms of competition, in his letter to me, Minister Pyne talked about deregulation. He says: ...competition in the sector enhancing quality and making higher education providers more responsive. Given we have only one university, is it possible that another university might move to Tasmania, or do you think he is referring to competition from online providers, as Senator McKenzie said? Ms Paul: He is also referring to the extension for the first time of Commonwealth funding for private higher education providers and for sub-bachelor qualifications—that is, higher education diplomas, advanced diplomas and associate degrees. There would be some of those types of providers in Tasmania, almost certainly. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you point me to some examples? You do not have to do it now. Ms Paul: We could take it on notice, sure. Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could, I would be very keen to learn more about these private and higher education providers. I know that they exist overseas, but I was not aware of the extent that they are established in Australia in higher education.

Answer

From 1 January 2016, all higher education institutions that are registered with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) will be able to offer Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) to eligible students enrolling in an accredited higher education bachelor, diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree course (including where the course is delivered online) subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

There are currently four private universities and 131 non-university higher education institutions registered with TEQSA. Two of these have their head office located in Tasmania – the Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies and Tabor College Tasmania Inc.

The Government's reforms may encourage other higher education providers to establish a presence in Tasmania, and/or to market their courses to Tasmanian students. TasTAFE may also seek to expand its courses to include higher education qualifications.