

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000665

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 31 May 2017, Proof Hansard page 130

Enabling courses (private providers)

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Has the department done any work on assessing whether private providers have the capacity to offer these courses?

Mr English: Private providers currently do offer these courses.

Senator O'NEILL: How many?

Mr English: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

Several universities have partnerships with private providers to deliver enabling programs. One such arrangement is with Navitas, which offers enabling programs on behalf of Edith Cowan University through Edith Cowan College. Comparable pathway programs such as the Diploma of Tertiary Preparation are also offered through providers such as the Melbourne Polytechnic.

As currently defined under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* enabling courses cannot lead to an award, meaning the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) cannot accredit enabling courses. Only self-accrediting institutions can therefore offer enabling courses (as defined by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*).