

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000969

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

Australasian College Broadway (placements)

Question

In relation to the collapse of the Australian College Broadway:

- Have these students been placed with other providers yet? How many are still waiting?
- How much has it cost Government to retrieve information about their studies? Will the taxpayer get that back?
- How many students have opted to take a partial re-fund? Have many done this because of the delay?

Answer

The Australasian College of Broadway's VET FEE-HELP students are covered under the tuition assurance scheme, which supports students whose provider ceases to offer a course (e.g. by going into administration) to move to another provider to continue their training or receive a refund of tuition fees paid for units not yet completed.

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) administers the tuition assurance scheme for the Australasian College of Broadway's VET FEE-HELP students.

According to data ACPET provided to the Department of Education and Training on the 27 September 2017, 235 Australasian College of Broadway VET FEE-HELP students had requested course assurance (placement in a similar course). Of these, 67 have been placed, 168 are awaiting placement with a new provider.

Since July 2011, all registered training organisations (RTOs) that close are required to provide the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) with a record of all qualifications and statements of attainment issued to students. No costs were incurred for collection, transport or storage of student records in this instance. The Australasian College Broadway had a data management system that ASQA personnel were able to access, without cost.

Students cannot opt for a partial refund under tuition assurance. VET FEE-HELP students may choose either course assurance or fee assurance. Fee assurance is a re-credit for any VET units of study they commenced but could not complete because of the tuition assurance activation.

According to the data ACPET provided to the department on 27 September 2017, 184 students had selected the fee assurance option.