

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000979**

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

***Careers Australia - public funding***

**Question**

When did the Department, the Minister's Office and ASQA first become aware of possible financial problems at Careers Australia?

When were the first complaints about Careers Australia made to the Department, the ACCC, ASQA or the Minister's Office?

**Answer**

On 18 September 2016 Careers Australia Education Institute Pty Ltd (Careers Australia) advised the Department of Education and Training that deferral or reduction of its VET FEE-HELP payment schedules would have a financial impact on its operations.

The department regularly briefs the Minister on matters relating to providers through weekly provision of a VET loans provider compliance actions table and updated Question Time Briefs as required.

On 15 April 2017, Careers Australia advised the Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham and the department of its financial concerns.

Careers Australia was not approved as a VET Student Loans provider on 7 April 2017. It did not meet the *VET Student Loans Act 2016* provider suitability requirements which include financial performance, management and governance and student outcomes.

The department became aware that Careers Australia Group had been placed into voluntary administration on 25 May 2017.

Departmental records indicate the department received its first complaint about Careers Australia in June 2014. The complaint related to the quality of training being delivered by Careers Australia and was referred to the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) for investigation.