

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-001009**

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

***VSL - Genuine students (Enrolments)***

**Question**

How many students were enrolled to continue studying into this year under VET FEE-HELP, but didn't opt to be grandfathered or be moved to the new system?

Were any of these students phantom students (not genuine students, unaware they had a debt, unaware they were enrolled, or unaware they were enrolled in certain courses)? Were any phantom students identified?

**Answer**

1. As at 15 June 2017, the Department of Education and Training has invited 524,477 students to opt-in for grandfathering of VET FEE-HELP in 2017. Students were sent an invitation if they had undertaken at least one unit of study since 2009 for which they had accessed a VET FEE-HELP loan, and if they had not completed the course for which that unit was studied.  
  
72,348 students have chosen to opt-in to be grandfathered for VET FEE-HELP in 2017, equating to approximately 40,000 EFTSL. 3874 students have transferred to VET Student Loans (VSL), leaving 449,229 students who have not opted-in or transferred to VSL.
2. The department is investigating a number of providers in relation to complaints from students that they were unaware they were enrolled in a course. These investigations are ongoing.