

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000814

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ15-000163 and SQ15-000164

Audit of a provider

Question

What are the triggers for the Department to conduct an audit of a provider?

Answer

A combination of triggers assist the Department of Education and Training in its risk based approach to compliance in order to identify providers requiring compliance action:

- requests for large increases to VET FEE-HELP advances
- anomalies in submitted data
- rapid growth in enrolments
- compliance with the *Higher Education Support Act* and the VET FEE-HELP Guidelines
- financial viability concerns
- intelligence and information received from the Australian Skills Quality Authority, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and state consumer protection agencies
- complaints received from consumers, the public, other providers and other government agencies
- adverse media reporting.

A VET FEE-HELP compliance strategy was developed in 2014 and further enhanced in 2015.

In the 2015-16 budget the department received \$18.2 million to help support compliance activities including more random audits.