

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000868

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Student enrolments

Question

The RIS for the Bill currently before Parliament says that “some reduction in overall student enrolments is expected” (Page 7). What sort of reduction are you expecting if the Bill is passed unamended? Can you quantify what that means in terms of total VFH loan numbers and amounts?

If passed unamended will the growth in the number of providers slow?

How many providers do you expect to be in the system in the future? More, less or about the same?

Answer

The Government is expecting that annual student enrolment numbers will continue to grow, however the Government is expecting a reduction in the growth in annual student enrolment numbers.

For example, the number of students accessing VET FEE-HELP loans increased by around 103 per cent between 2013 and 2014, from just over 100,000 students to nearly 202,800. The Government expects to see a reduction in the increase in growth rather than a reduction in overall student enrolments.

The *Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Reform) Bill 2015*, passed on 3 December 2015, establishes minimum trading and training history requirements for new provider applicants. It also introduces a six month exclusion period for new provider applicants that have had their application for approval assessed as not meeting the criteria for approval.