

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000797

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

VET Student Loans - state and territory skills list

Question

How will the Department of Education and Training prevent the mechanism of using state and territory skills lists to determine course eligibility from being manipulated or gamed by states or territories?

Answer

Requiring courses to be included on at least two state and territory skills list to be eligible for VET Student Loans will reduce instances of possible bias by state governments. The legislation will allow the Minister to amend the VET Student Loans eligible course list at any time. This includes adding or removing eligible courses.

The Department of Education and Training will undertake a comprehensive review of the approved course list and the loan caps starting February 2017. This review will include consultation with a range of stakeholders including state and territory governments, employers, providers and students. The approved course list will be then reviewed twice a year from 2018.