

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000877

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah provided in writing.

VET FEE HELP analysis

Question

Has the Department undertaken any analysis to estimate how many students were enrolled into courses they could never have been expected to complete? What did that analysis show?

How many students were enrolled into courses that effectively didn't exist?

How many students were enrolled into courses where the fees charged grossly outweighed the cost of delivery?

Answer

Courses able to be reported against in Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) are legitimate courses, as recorded on the national register. It is not possible for providers to report against courses that do not exist, nor, therefore, to access VET FEE-HELP for such courses.

The department does not collect information from VET providers on the costs of delivery. However, the fees charged by providers increased threefold between 2011 and 2015. The Department will conduct a comprehensive review of courses eligible for VET Student Loans in 2017 and has sought to align loan caps with estimated costs of delivery where possible.