

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001035

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

Jobs and skills demand growth

Question

Did the government seek advice from the Department about where jobs and skills demand growth is in the Australian economy?

Did the Department provide any such advice and on what date was the advice provided?

Answer

The Australian Government sought advice from the Department of Education and Training about the most appropriate approach for establishing the VET Student Loans eligible course list. The department provided advice on methodologies for establishing a list. This analysis considered many things, including jobs and skills needs in Australia.

The Government released a discussion paper on 29 April 2016 calling for public submissions in response to a range of specific issues, as well as or more broadly about the future of the VET FEE-HELP scheme. Targeting government loans to VET courses that align with industry needs, skills in demand and employment outcomes was a key issue raised in the discussion paper. The consultation process closed on 30 June 2016.

The department provided ongoing advice to the Government from early 2016 through to the announcement of the VET Student Loans scheme, which occurred on 5 October 2016.