

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001096

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 110

Investigation into the Bruce Hardwig Flying School

Question

Senator XENOPHON: Dr Banerjee, under the rules of parliamentary privilege it really does not matter if there is a matter before the courts. Nothing we say here is adducible in the court anyway, or before a tribunal. Did the department undertake an investigation into the Bruce Hardwig Flying School last year?

Ms Quagliata: It depends what you mean by 'investigation', in that of course we looked into it. We were getting complaints and we did look into it. There was no formal investigation, if you mean that there were terms of reference and specific people allocated to interview students or things like that.

Senator XENOPHON: Were any reports or memoranda prepared about the complaints that had been received?

Ms Quagliata: There were file notes and there were discussions, but there was no formal report.

Senator XENOPHON: Would you be able to provide the committee a copy of those file notes and notes of any discussions?

Ms Quagliata: Yes.

Answer

Please find attached the following file notes:

- information provided by the Bruce Hartwig Flying School about the 'credit' arrangements offered to students (Attachment A)
- information provided by the Bruce Hartwig Flying School about course costs for complainant 1A (Attachment B)
- course compliance information provided by the Bruce Hartwig Flying School (Attachment C)
- the relevant student records to identify if any contraventions of *Higher Education Support Act 2003* requirements by Bruce Hartwig Flying School had occurred. Attached are documents accessed by the departmental officer to determine (a) the timing and duration of study; and (b) whether the student debt reported was consistent with the course fees pertaining to the VET course of study the student had enrolled in (Attachment D).
- An email to complainant 1A, a file note, and advice (Attachment E).

Note – Personal information (e.g. person addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and similar) about people other than that relating to complainant 1A, complainant 2 and complainant 3 has been redacted. VET personal information about complainant 1A, complainant 2 and complainant 3 has been redacted in part to exclude information that those students may consider sensitive, for example, names, medical information, date of birth and address.