

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001110

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

Number of state and territory subsidy programs

Question

How many (and what proportion) of the courses on state and territory skills lists are currently subsidised by state and territory governments? Please provide a list with the subsidised amounts.

Does the Department expect that number/proportion to change when these courses are directly linked to the VET Student Loans scheme? By how much?

Has there been any change in the number of subsidised VET places funded by state and territory governments since 2012? Please report the changes for each year. Is there an explanation of these changes?

Answer

All states and territories undertake a process to determine the priorities for training subsidies. Most states and territories undertake some labour market and data analysis and stakeholder consultations to determine priority areas for funding. They also consider the extent of private market activity and the public benefit when determining subsidy levels. States and territories also develop lists of occupations for the purposes of setting migration policy.

Information on state and territory skills lists and subsidised qualifications and courses is available on state and territory training websites.

Any future changes to state and territory skills lists and/or subsidy arrangements will be determined by state and territory governments. The Australian Government has indicated that it will review the VET Students Loans course list at least annually. If states and territories chose to change which qualifications and courses they are prepared to subsidise this could be taken into account when reviewing the course list.

Subsidised enrolments between 2012 and 2015 are shown in the table below.

2012	2013	2014	2015
1,886,303	1,812,713	1,626,406	1,371,154

Source: vocstats.ncver.edu.au – VET program enrolments 2003–2015

Changes to the number of subsidised enrolments reflect state and territory policy settings and student demand.