

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.1 – Funding for vocational education and training

DEST Question No. E837_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Skilling Australia's Workforce Act – HECS- and FEE-HELP in TAFE

1. Has the Department prepared options on introducing a student loans scheme, similar to either FEE HELP or HECS into TAFE?
2. Would the introduction of a FEE HELP type system require a new legislative framework? (extending the current scheme beyond Higher Education into VET)
3. What would be needed as part of this legislative framework to make HECS or FEE HELP available to State Government or private providers?
4. Was this paper ('the Next Stages of Training Reform') considered by the VET Minco in November?
5. Will these options be presented to COAG? If so, when?
6. Can a copy of this paper be provided to the Committee?

Answer:

Skilling Australia's Workforce Act – HECS- and FEE-HELP in TAFE

1. Following the *Realising Our Potential* Budget announcement, the Department has begun the development of options to allow FEE-HELP to be paid to full fee paying students in Diploma and Advanced Diploma vocational education and training qualifications. This will occur in targeted areas where credit transfer with universities is guaranteed.
2. The Department has not considered this issue.
3. The Department has not considered this issue.
4. A paper entitled "*New Directions for the National Training System*" was presented to the Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education in November 2006.
5. That paper is due to be presented at the next COAG meeting.
6. In accordance with COAG and MCVTE guidelines this paper is not for public release.