

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0897\_11**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**NATIONAL ENTITLEMENT TO A QUALITY TRAINING PLACE BUDGET  
INITIATIVE**

The ACT Department of Education and Training website states that "The ACT is currently in discussions with the Commonwealth in relation to the National Entitlement to a Quality Training Place budget initiative. The future of PPP beyond June 2011 therefore, is unknown at this stage." Will the PPP be scrapped after June 2011? If the programme is abolished in June, what will that mean for the job seekers in Tasmania, who, according to the SkillsTasmania website, will not be able to access 2011 places until May.

**Answer**

The National Entitlement to a Quality Training Place (NEQTP) will provide a guaranteed training place for Australians aged under 25 years to enable them to get their first qualification or lift their qualification to a higher level.

To establish the entitlement, each state and territory has been offered the opportunity to use National Partnership Productivity Places Program funding from 2011-2012 to boost their VET funding and help meet the costs of this training guarantee. As part of this offer, the Commonwealth will also invest \$53.6 million over four years to provide greater access to income contingent loans (VET FEE-HELP) for higher level VET qualifications.

It is expected that the NEQTP will commence in states and territories accepting the offer by July 2011. The current Productivity Places Program will continue in 2010-2011 and, in those states and territories that choose not to take up the Government's offer, the Productivity Places Program will continue until 30 June 2012.