

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome**            4

**DEEWR Question No. EW071\_09**

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

#### **Question**

*VET FEE-HELP*

For example, RTOs that are part of a church organisation may not be incorporated (and may have governance restrictions that prevent them from forming a separate corporation) and training may be an important but not principal part of their operations.

There are areas of community services that desperately require trained staff, for example, the federal government recently invested in the development of new vocational qualifications for practitioners in family relationship services. The requirements on FEE-HELP potentially preclude many RTOs in the sector from offering fee relief to students undertaking VET study in relevant courses.

Is there any intention to look at this issue further and see if an exemption for the not-for-profit community sector can be developed?

#### **Answer**

VET FEE-HELP is an extension of the higher education loan scheme "FEE-HELP" and sits within the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA).

While the implementation of VET FEE-HELP will be carefully monitored to assess its impact, consideration of further amendments are a matter for the government.