

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Agency: ASQA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000092

Senator Xenophon, Nick provided in writing

ASQA - VET FEE HELP

Question

Does ASQA agree that the VET FEE-HELP student loans are spurring growth in the industry?

Has ASQA provided advice to the Education Department and/or the Government on limiting VET FEE-HELP funding to private providers?

What is ASQA's position on linking VET FEE-HELP funding for private providers on demonstrating ongoing compliance with the conditions and standards for registration?

Answer

The Australian Skills Quality Authority has provided the following response.

The VET FEE HELP scheme, established under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Education.

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) is not involved in the design, management or regulation of government guidelines related to the operation of VET funding schemes such as the VET FEE-HELP scheme.

ASQA has, however, developed a strategy responding to concerns (and complaints it has received) about some training services provided by RTOs funded through VET FEE HELP. ASQA is working closely with the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training and other agencies (such as Australian Consumer Law regulators) in responding to those concerns.

ASQA is now undertaking a programme of audits targeting 23 VET FEE-HELP providers.