

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000085

Senator Cameron, Doug asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 131.

National Partnership

Question

Senator CAMERON: Dr Bruniges, does the department know how much of the current national partnership has been invested in helping students complete a year 12 or equivalent qualification, and do you know how many students have completed a year 12 equivalent qualification linked to the national partnership?

Dr Bruniges: I think I would have to take that on notice. That would be, I guess, joined up with each jurisdiction's agreement, and the details of that I would need to take on notice.

...

Senator Birmingham: Aside from through VET FEE-HELP previously or VET student loans now, I am not aware that we provide direct payments to TAFEs. So TAFEs would receive funding via the states. I will let officials add or take on notice, if need be, as to whether the national partnerships prescribe any specific funding requirements for TAFE or any specific funding related to year 12. I am not aware that it does either.

Senator CAMERON: I have happy for you to take that on notice, but I think I know the answer—there is no prescription. If I am not sure and you are not sure, that is okay. Let us find out. I do not think there is any prescription.

Ms Furnell: There are no specific requirements or comments or targets regarding year 12 and year 12 pathways in the agreement on implementation plans.

Dr Bruniges: In different jurisdictions, there might be requirements for leaving age of 17 that you will see. Some jurisdictions have legislated a school leaving age of 17. In a number of jurisdictions, that has meant that they have really sought, as the leaving age is upped from 15 to 17, to expand pathways for students across a number of settings.

Senator CAMERON: So there is no obligation on the states to provide it. If you could provide details of how many you think have gone through, I think that would be a useful piece of information to get back from the states.

Dr Bruniges: We will see what we can do. I am happy to take it on notice and see what we have in terms of pathways.

Answer

The National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform does not include funding for year 12 or equivalent qualifications.