

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000803**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

***Niche industry capability***

**Question**

Will the Department, in assessing any application from training provider seeking to service niche industries, consider the need to maintain capability and skills formation in its assessment?

**Answer**

The assessment criteria for registered training organisations (RTOs) seeking approval to offer VET Student Loans are outlined in the Provider eligibility for VET Student Loans Factsheet and include:

- Links with industry. Evidence may include an assessment of the applicant's relationship with peak bodies and employers, and references from industry and employer groups or unions.
- Student outcomes. Evidence may include data on completion rates at the course and unit level, data on student outcomes and student satisfaction, and plans on how to continue to improve upon completion rates and student outcomes.
- On the Skills List of two states

Whether a provider services a niche industry is not a criterion for approval. Providers will be approved based on a number of criteria, linked to the quality of these outcomes and students will be entitled to access VET Student Loans for an eligible course. However, where a provider servicing a niche industry is able to demonstrate the strength of employment outcomes and industry support for their training it will strengthen their application.