

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001116

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

VET Student Loans course list - high economic need

Question

What exactly is the Department's test of "high economic need" that was used to determine the course list? Can you provide a copy of that test? And the results of the test for every course assessed against it?

How did the test assess the employability of graduates from each course? Did it measure skills and their transferability? Did it measure employment outcomes for each qualification?

Answer

The methodology for determining the VET Student Loans eligible course list included courses listed on at least two state and territory skills lists and including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related courses. STEM courses are defined as any course in the following Fields of Education as defined under the Australian Standard Classification of Education: information technology, natural and physical sciences, engineering and related technologies, and agriculture, environment and related studies. State and territory skills lists were used as they draw on state based analysis of skill needs, and two lists were used to ensure a national picture of skills needs rather than needs localised to a single state or territory. STEM courses were included as they align with the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda.

The Department of Education and Training did not undertake additional assessments of the employability of graduates from each course or their transferability, beyond the tests undertaken by states and territories as part of the skills list development. However, employment factors are considered in provider eligibility processes.