

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001141

Senator Cameron, Doug asked on 20 October 2016, Proof Hansard page 122

HITS (IT system)

Question

Senator CAMERON: A sort of email. This is going to be interesting. It is late at night. Why don't you just provide me with details of how you correspond with this sort of email HITS and let me know what the acronym stands for so I can understand how you are corresponding?
Ms Quagliata: We will do that.

Answer

The Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) Information Technology System (known as HITS) is the principal administration system created by the department to manage the operation of the VET FEE-HELP scheme. It has been in operation since May 2013.

HITS incorporates a communication function that enables the department to securely communicate information to VET FEE-HELP providers, each of which are issued with a HITS logon ID and password.

HITS is used primarily to process applications from eligible bodies seeking approval under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to offer VET FEE-HELP loans. It is also used for administering financial estimates and payments to providers and for ensuring providers have obtained tuition assurance cover for every course that they offer to assisted students.