

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000043

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 83

VET FEE-HELP (previous QoN SQ15-000752 relates)

Question

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. Can I just come back to that stuff on the statistics on the VET-FEE HELP. Can you provide that information by provider?

Dr Banerjee: Yes, we can, and I have found the aggregate number. It was in QON SQ15/000752. The information provided there was that between, 2009 and 2014, 6,881 students have had their debt removed or deleted to the value of \$166 million.

Senator KIM CARR: Would you be able to tell me how many were refused?

Dr Banerjee: That is a matter of students who have approached their provider and had it refused, so we would only have that notified, if the student had—

cont. page 84

Senator KIM CARR: If you can provide information by provider, that would be helpful. Do you have the 2015 figures yet on VET-FEE HELP by provider?

Dr Banerjee: At the moment, there are half-year confirmed figures. There is a validation process, so the 2015 figures are for full-year figures estimates only.

Senator KIM CARR: Are we able to get those?

Dr Banerjee: We can provide some of those, yes.

Answer

A table detailing the number of students and the amount of debt remitted or deleted, listed by VET provider, totalled over the years 2009 to 2015 is at Attachment A.

Please note that debts for 1010 of these students were removed across more than one year. However, they are counted only once in the aggregated data in Attachment A, making the aggregated number of students by year greater than the total number of students in Attachment A.

The figures pertain to students whose debt has been *completely removed*; that is, they no longer have a VET FEE-HELP debt. Students who have only had part of their debt removed (say for one or two units of study) but still have a VET FEE-HELP debt for their course are not included in these statistics.

Note that 2015 data is not yet complete or verified. Also note that data is subject to change, as students request and are granted deletion or remission of their debt from providers after the verification process has been finalised. This can happen, for example, if the provider agrees that there were irregularities with the student's enrolment.

The Department of Education and Training does not collect any statistics on the number of students who have sought remission of a debt or deletion and been refused by the VET provider.