

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000148

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. SQ16-001071

Trade Support Loans (rationale for better completion rates)

Question

Can you outline the rationale behind the notion that Trade Support Loans will lead to better completion rates, as stated in SQ16-001071?

What evidence is there that Trade Support Loans will lead to better completion rates, as stated in SQ16-001071?

Answer

As stated in SQ16-001071, the intent of Trade Support Loans is to increase completion rates among Australian Apprentices in priority areas, by providing financial support to eligible Australian Apprentices to assist them with the costs of living and learning while undertaking an apprenticeship.

The program is structured to provide apprentices with access to the greatest financial support in the early years - \$8000 in year one, \$6000 in year two, \$4000 in year three and \$2000 in the fourth year in line with departmental data on cancellation and completion rates (see SQ17-00140).

As an incentive to complete their training, apprentices who complete their apprenticeship will be eligible for a 20 per cent discount on their loan.