

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000329

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

VET Loan scheme - provider registration

Question

In relation to provider registration under the VET Student Loans scheme: How many providers have been given provisional approval? Out of how many providers in total? Have any been fully approved under the new scheme? Have any providers been refused approval? Which ones? Why? How many of the staff assessing providers are contract or labour hire staff or consultants?

Answer

Transitional Approval

- The Department of Education and Training received a total of 216 applications for provisional approval. As at 24 April 2017, there were:
 - 176 provisionally approved providers for the VET Student Loans program, including 36 listed providers.
 - 24 providers applied for but were not granted provisional approval; and
 - 11 providers were revoked.
- TAFE Queensland undertook a restructure in early 2017 consolidating six institutions into one, which accounts for the remaining five providers.

Full Approval

- Applications to become a VET Student Loans approved course provider operating from 1 July 2017 opened on 23 December 2016 and closed on 19 February 2017. The assessment process was designed to enable the program to meet its objectives in providing financial support for genuine students undertaking courses with positive employment outcomes and student progression.
- The outcomes from this approval round were advised to providers on 10 April 2017. Of the 265 applications received:
 - 109 are approved in-principle, noting that full approval depends on the organisations arranging sufficient tuition assurance, in accordance with section 25(2) of the VET Student Loans Act 2016;
 - 146 were not approved; and
 - 10 are awaiting further information from the applicant, the results of internal departmental investigations, or ASQA action.
- The 36 listed providers approved during the transitional process retain their approval for the full approval period, and are in addition to the providers approved in-principle.
- Of the 146 providers that were not approved:
 - One was ineligible as it is not a body corporate;
 - Three were not in the form prescribed by the Secretary;

- 42 did not address all of the provider suitability requirements;
- 40 did not meet the financial performance provider suitability requirement, and
- 60 were unsuitable in one or more of the other provider suitability requirements.
- The department is allowing applicants to seek a reconsideration of the decision regarding their application. As such, the decision regarding some unsuccessful applicants may change and to provide this information publicly at this stage would potentially cause harm to some applicants.
- Information about successful VET Student Loans approved course providers will be published on the department's website once the provider has tuition assurance, and is fully approved.
- To date, 23 contract staff had been employed at various times to participate in the assessment of applications from providers for both provisional and full approval under VET Student Loans.