

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000333

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

Sustainability of Tuition Assurance Schemes

Question

Are both of the Tuition Assurance Schemes sustainable? Has the Department identified any risks or briefed the Minister on risks? Are either of the schemes under pressure? Has a contingency been investigated?

Answer

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring students are protected and supported through tuition assurance arrangements. Under the new VET Student Loans program, tuition assurance arrangements have been further strengthened to support students to finish their qualification, and impose more stringent requirements on both providers and tuition assurance operators.

The two currently approved tuition assurance scheme operators (operators), the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) and TAFE Directors Australia (TDA), have been granted provisional approval as operators under the VET Student Loans program.

In the coming months, the Department of Education and Training will undertake an approval process to assess the suitability of interested parties, including opportunities for new entities, to be tuition assurance scheme operators under VET Student Loans.

The department does not comment on advice to Government.