

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000361

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 16 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 109

VET FEE-HELP (Question on notice No. 166)

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I return to VET FEE-HELP. Question on notice No. 166 tells us that the average VET FEE-HELP debt grew from \$5,927 in 2012 to \$9,549 in 2013. That is a 61 per cent increase. How did that happen?

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Senator KIM CARR: And how many extra providers came into the system?

Senator Birmingham: Of the publicly funded providers and the TAFEs, that is presumably 40 or 50.

Ms Quagliata: Are you asking about 2012?

Senator KIM CARR: And 2013. There was a 61 per cent increase in the average debt per student. That is what it says.

Ms Quagliata: In terms of the numbers of providers that were approved in 2012, it was 26. In 2013 it was 63. In 2014 it was 73.

Senator KIM CARR: And how does that account for the growth of 61 per cent in the average debt?

Mr Griew: I think we would have to take that on notice.

Answer

A correction to question on notice no. 166 has been provided to the Education and Employment Legislation Committee.

The average VET FEE-HELP loan per assisted Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) for 2012 was actually \$8607. The average VET FEE-HELP loan per assisted EFTSL for 2013 was \$10,621. Therefore the growth in the average VET FEE-HELP loan per assisted EFTSL was 23 per cent.

The growth is a consequence of multiple factors including increases in average tuition fees, availability of different types of courses and providers, and increase in the volume of students and providers changing the dynamics of the market.