

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

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

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000550**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

*Also refer to previous Question No. SQ15-00200*

***Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals***

**Question**

In relation to Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals:

- (a) What will be the impact of ceasing Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals (ASOTP)?
- (b) Are there any other sources of support for overseas trained professionals seeking assistance with registration?
- (c) What professions did ASOTP assist? How many people were assisted in 2014-15? And what was the average level of support?
- (d) Am I right that this program was oversubscribed?

**Answer**

- (a) The discontinuation of the Assessment Subsidy for Overseas Trained Professionals programme means that Australian citizens and permanent residents with professional qualifications gained overseas will no longer receive assistance from the department to cover the costs for approved assessment and exams required for employment. Many occupations that were covered by the programme are mid- to high-income. Individuals with relevant professional qualifications should be well-placed to meet the costs of recognition.
- (b) The department is working with the Department of Health to address any barriers to recognition in health professions, including the costs of assessments and exams required for employment.
- (c) Eligible professions under the programme were: architect, chiropractor, dentist, dietitian, general medical practitioner, medical laboratory scientist, medical specialist, nurse, occupational therapist, optometrist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, podiatrist, radiographer, and veterinarian.

As of 31 May 2015, 326 applicants received funding in 2014-15. The average amount funded per applicant was \$2755.

- (d) No. There was no unmet demand for the programme in 2014-15. All eligible applications were funded.