Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000576

Senator Cameron, Doug asked on 31 May 2017, Proof Hansard page 40

Dates concerns first raise about Sage and Nexus

Question

Senator CAMERON: When were concerns first raised about these providers? Dr Banerjee: I will get some further information on that for you.

Mr Hart: I do not have the exact dates of when concerns were raised, but clearly Sage applied for provisional approval under VET student loans. The condition of their approval was that they had quite restrictive cap of \$30,000. Clearly we were managing, I guess, risks around that provider in terms of the cap that was imposed on them for the first six months of this calendar year.

Senator CAMERON: But when were concerns first raised about this provider? Mr Hart: I will have to take on notice dates of any concerns that may have been raised.

Answer

The Department of Education and Training and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) work closely together on compliance matters for VET providers.

In 2015, Australian Careers Institute Pty Ltd (Sage) was audited as part of ASQA's VET FEE-HELP Targeted Audit Project. ASQA identified providers to audit for the project on the basis of VET FEE-HELP related complaints they had received.

ASQA's 2015 VET FEE-HELP Targeted Audit project plan included Sage.

Nexus Institute Pty Ltd, trading as WYN Institute, is not registered as a VET FEE-HELP or VET Student Loans provider.