

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000895

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

AMEP and SEE programs (TAFE)

Question

In each instance where contracts will move from TAFE or community providers to for-profit providers from July, why was this decision made and what was the price difference between the providers?

Answer

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and the Skills for Education and Employment Program (SEE) tender process was managed in accordance with Commonwealth Procurement Rules to ensure equal opportunities were provided to all participants throughout the process.

Tender submissions were assessed by a departmental panel that considered technical capability, capacity to deliver services, innovation, risk and value for money.

Details of pricing in the tender are commercial in confidence. Attachment B of the Government Guidelines for Official Witnesses before Parliamentary Committees and Related Matters (February 2015), deals with the provision of commercial-in-confidence material to the Senate. Attachment B states that 'As a general guide, it would be inappropriate to disclose information that could disadvantage a contractor and advantage their competitors in future tender processes to a senate committee. The disclosure of pricing information could disadvantage providers and advantage their competitors in future tender rounds.