

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000926

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

VSL - Price changes

Question

Are there any providers that are offering a course to a grandfathered VET FEE-HELP student but are offering the same course at a lower total price to a VET Student Loans student? In how many cases? Which providers? What action is the Department taking to make sure students and taxpayers are not ripped off?

Answer

A key feature of the VET Student Loans program is that loan caps apply to all eligible courses to encourage appropriate fee levels and to protect students from incurring large loans due to inflated tuition fees.

A grandfathered VET FEE-HELP student is able to transfer to VET Student Loans if their course is available at a lower price under VET Student Loans (noting that a loan cap will apply under VET Student Loans).

The Department of Education and Training is not currently aware of any providers who are offering the same course at a different price for grandfathered VET FEE-HELP and VET Student Loans students.