

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000931

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

VSL - Provider transition (Providers)

Question

- a) How many providers were registered under VET FEE-HELP when the program was closed?
- How many applied to be VET Student Loans providers?
 - How many were given provisional registration?
 - How many have been given full registration?
 - Are there any still under consideration for full registration or has that process been completed?
- b) Please provide a list of all the providers under VET FEE-HELP, and all those that applied for VET Student Loans and the outcome of that application – along with the reason providers were not approved?

Answer

a)

Number of VET FEE-HELP providers eligible to apply for VET Student Loans in November 2016 for the provisional period.	230
Number of providers that applied to be VET Student Loans providers for the provisional period	175
Number of providers provisionally approved for VET Student Loans	151 (11 have since been revoked)
Number providers fully approved for VET Student Loans (includes providers approved and approved in principle)	86
Number of applications pending a decision	6

Note - figures above do not include 'Listed Course Providers' (as per s27 VET Student Loans Act 2016) of which there are 36 from 1 July 2017, noting Qld TAFE has combined 6 institutions into one.

b)

Some of the providers who applied for the VSL scheme are still seeking reconsiderations and therefore it would be premature to release their names or other information related to their application.

As at 21 June 2017, of the 175 private VET FEE-HELP providers that applied for VET Student Loans:

- 50 providers provided insufficient information and evidence to support their claims against the provider suitability requirements including financial performance (see table below).
- 88 did not apply
- 32 providers have been fully approved

- 54 have been approved in-principle
- 6 have a decision pending
- Provider suitability was assessed against the VET Student Loans provider suitability requirements. Providers were required to submit a range of information in forms and in written responses to meet provider suitability requirements.

Following is a table of the provider suitability requirements not met by the 50 VET FEE-HELP providers who were unsuccessful for VET Student Loans.

	Provider VSL Suitability Requirement				
	<i>Financial Performance</i>	<i>Management and Governance</i>	<i>Quality VET</i>	<i>Student Outcomes</i>	<i>Workplace Relevance</i>
Number of unsuccessful providers who failed each requirement	24	24	25	17	16

Note – the figures above do not reconcile to the 50 unsuccessful providers, as providers can be unsuccessful against two or more of the requirements.

Most providers were rated unsuitable against one or more of the criteria for the following reasons:

- The Application did not contain a quality written submission against each of the criteria
- The Application did not contain evidence that was able to be verified.
- The Application did not contain information from third parties that would enable independent verification and substantiation of claims made by the Applicant.