

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000944

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

Higher education changes - sub-bachelor places (Forecast)

Question

- For each of the next four years and over the medium term, how many Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas do you expect will be provided at TAFE/VET providers and how many at university, if the higher education changes are implemented?
- Will TAFE's have access to the same arrangements for their sub-bachelor places as universities? In dollar terms, how much more debt could a university sub-bachelor student access compared to one at TAFE?
- Do you expect any students to move from TAFE to university offerings because of the more generous loans scheme?

Answer

The Department of Education and Training does not publish disaggregated estimates of sub-bachelor places. Such places are included in the estimate of undergraduate Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) outlined in the following table from the department's Portfolio Budget Statement.

	2016–17 Expected	2017–18 Target	2018–19 Target	2019–20 Target	2020–21 Target
Undergraduate	581,300	582,500	585,000	595,000	601,100

There are no sub-bachelor CSPs currently allocated to TAFEs. However, TAFEs that are registered as higher education providers with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) may continue to offer higher education diplomas and advanced diplomas on a full-fee paying basis.

The expansion of the demand driven system to approved sub-bachelor courses only applies to Table A universities (listed at Section 16.15 of *the Higher Education Support Act 2003*).

Eligible full-fee paying students at universities and TAFEs can access a FEE-HELP loan to cover up-front tuition fees. The FEE-HELP loan limit (\$100,879 for most students in 2017) applies to students accessing a full-fee paying higher education place regardless of whether it is offered by a university or a TAFE. In contrast, there is no lifetime loan limit for students in CSPs, but the annual student contribution they can be charged is capped by the Australian Government (the highest in 2017 being \$10,596 for students studying law, economics, commerce, administration, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science).

The loan scheme a student can access for a sub-bachelor course differs by the type of place the student is in, Commonwealth supported or full-fee paying.