

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000959

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

Provision of Tax File Numbers to VET providers (Audit)

Question

Has the Department asked the ATO for the names of providers that have requested large numbers of Tax File Numbers? If not, why not? And how if the Department auditing these providers to identify where people might not have given their permission for a Tax File Number to be accessed?

Answer

Yes, the Department of Education and Training sought information from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in relation to providers that had been given Tax File Numbers by the ATO.

The department is pursuing several strategies to both identify and recover inappropriately claimed VET FEE-HELP funds, including conducting forensic audits and other investigations.