

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000968

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

Careers Australia Collapse

Question

Have all students been placed with other providers? How many have not? Does the Department expect all Careers Australia students to be able to complete their studies at TAFE or another provider? Are there any courses that are not offered elsewhere? Has Careers Australia handed over all student records and marking? Was this up to date at the time of being handed over? Were any retrieval costs incurred? How much? Were any marking, assessment or other costs incurred? How much?"

Answer

Careers Australia's VET FEE-HELP and VET Student Loans students are covered under the tuition assurance scheme, which supports students whose provider ceases to offer a course (E.g. by going into administration) to move to another provider to continue their training or receive a refund of tuition fees paid for units commenced but not yet completed.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) administers the tuition assurance scheme for Careers Australia's FEE-HELP, VET FEE-HELP and VET Student Loans students.

The number of students placed with other providers will be known once TDA has completed its administration of tuition assurance. Think Education Pty Ltd purchased the nursing arm of Careers Australia, and will transition approximately 2200 nursing students. Lynchpin Enterprises Pty Ltd trading as Everthought Education Brisbane South purchased some of the trades divisions of Careers Australia, and will transition around 600 apprentices.

All courses offered by Careers Australia are offered by other providers.

Since July 2011, all registered training organisations (RTOs) that close are required to provide the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) with a record of all qualifications and statements of attainment issued to students. Electronic records for Careers Australia students have been provided to ASQA. Hard copy records are held by the Administrator, ASQA, Think Education Pty Ltd and Everthought Education Brisbane South. ASQA is still in the process of retrieving records and continues to sort through them for students. Total costs will be known when the process is complete.