

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000978

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

VFH - concerns raised

Question

SQ17-000337 indicates there was cross Government concern about VET FEE-HELP in Nov and Dec 2014 and that the Minister was briefed. Between Nov 2014 and Nov 2016 when changed legislation was passed, how much was paid out in VET FEE-HELP? How much was paid out in VET FEE-HELP in the 2015 and 2016 calendar years?

Answer

In March 2015, the Australian Government announced more than a dozen changes to VET FEE-HELP which included banning inducements (from 1 April 2015). Legislative changes in November 2015 (not November 2016) capped the program while a review was undertaken. Legislation to abolish VET FEE-HELP passed Parliament in December 2016.

VET FEE-HELP payments for the periods requested are as per the table below:

Year	Payment
Nov – December 2014	\$1.39m
2015 full year	\$2.59b
2016 to November 2016	\$1.39b
Total	\$3.98b