

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000986

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

Careers Australia - cost to the Commonwealth

Question

What is the total cost to the Commonwealth of the Careers Australia collapse? (across all agencies including the Department and ASQA)

Does Careers Australia have any outstanding debts to the Commonwealth?

Is the Department, the ACCC or any other agency pursuing Careers Australia for the re-fund of student loans?

- What is the total value being pursued? What are the prospects of recovery?
- What will happen to the students that debt relates to?
- Will their debt be cleared if it was inappropriately issued and who will bear that cost?

Answer

The Department of Education and Training is currently undertaking a reconciliation to determine the final position of Careers Australia's entitlement to VET FEE-HELP payments.

The department will pursue all legal means to recover any debts to taxpayers.

All Careers Australia students with a loan under VET FEE-HELP or VET Students Loans are protected under tuition assurance arrangements which provide for students to be supported to move to another provider to complete their training or receive a refund of tuition fees for units of study commenced but not completed.

Total costs will be known once all actions, including tuition assurance to support students, and debt recovery if needed, are completed.