

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-001002

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

Careers Australia - student placement

Question

- How many Careers Australia students do you expect will end up having their debts partially re-credited rather than finishing their course?
- In other cases of provider collapse, what proportion of students have ended up having their debt partially re-credited rather than being able to finish their course?
- If a student has their debts re-credited, are they able to have the study they have already undertaken used as credit in the future if they go back to study somewhere else?

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 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 Careers Australia students who elect the fee assurance option, under tuition assurance, will be known once TDA has completed its administration of tuition assurance.

In other provider closures that have resulted in a tuition assurance activation, the tuition assurance operators, TDA and the Australian Council for Private Education and Training, have indicated, as at 3 July 2017, around 3800 students have requested fee assurance (ie. a re-credit for any VET units of study they have commenced but could not complete because of the tuition assurance activation).

Standard 1.12 of the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015* requires that:

1.12 The Registered Training Organisation offers recognition of prior learning to individual learners.

If a student has a Statement of Attainment for a unit of competency, they will be given credit for that unit of competency by a second provider.