

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Reform & Support

Department of Education Question No. ED0673_15

Senator Carr asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 139

VET FEE-HELP

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I am concerned to know whether it is possible that a childcare training centre is able to offer VET FEE-HELP loans even though it is not an RTO, let alone an approved VET FEE-HELP provider? Ms Borthwick: I do not see how that is possible. If you give us a name, we can look into that. Senator KIM CARR: The report was broadcast on the ABC on Saturday—I referred to it earlier—but you would like the name of the particular college? Ms Borthwick: We can look up the report.

Answer

Only an approved VET FEE-HELP institution can offer VET FEE-HELP loans. An approved VET FEE-HELP institution, like any other registered training organisation (RTO), can auspice another institution to deliver its courses. The second institution does not have to be an approved VET FEE-HELP institution.

Neither the Higher Education Support Act 2003 nor the Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisation 2012 prohibit such a practice.

However, the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTO) 2015*, which come into force on 1 January for new registrations and 1 April for existing registrations, make an RTO ultimately responsible for ensuring quality training and assessment within their organisation regardless of any third party arrangements where training and/or assessment is delivered on their behalf.

If an approved VET FEE-HELP institution is deregistered for non-compliance with this, or any other standard, revocation as an approved VET FEE-HELP institution would automatically follow.

The department received a complaint in relation to the broadcast referred to by Senator Carr and is currently investigating the matter. This issue was first raised on the ABC's 'PM' programme with Mark Colvin on 6 October.