

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000898

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing.

Tuition Protection Service

Question

- Can the Department provide details of the staffing levels at the Tuition Protection Service (TPS), in terms of headcount and FTE?
- What is the current balance of the TPS Fund?
- How many times has the TPS had to make payouts in the past twelve months?
- What is the current amount levied on providers in the years 2015-16 and 2016-17?
- Has the TPS asked the Department for additional funds to cover any potential funding shortfall for this or subsequent financial year(s)?

Answer

- The Tuition Protection Service (TPS) is comprised of the Director who is a statutory appointment. As at 19 October 2016, there were also 5.6 FTE staff in the Department of Education and Training who assist the TPS Director and the department with TPS operational matters.
- As at 30 September 2016, the balance in the Overseas Students Tuition Fund is \$28 million.
- Since 30 September 2016, TPS payouts have been made in relation to two provider closures.
- The TPS levy is collected in calendar years. In 2016 the TPS levy collection amounted to \$10,147,101. In 2017 it is estimated that approximately \$9.5 million will be collected.
- There has been no shortfall.