

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000935

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing

Adult Migrant English Program - English language classes

Question

Can you confirm that:

- a. English language classes conducted within the Pre-Employment Stream have a maximum class size of 20 students and require a teacher to hold specialist TESOL qualifications?
- b. English language classes conducted within the Social English Stream have a maximum class size of 25 students and do not require a teacher to hold specialist TESOL qualifications, or even general teaching qualifications?

Answer

Class sizes are set at a maximum of 20 for the pre-employment stream and 25 for the social english stream.

Teachers of both streams must meet the qualification standards set by the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 legislation. All Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) teachers must also meet the qualification standards set by the licencing agreement of the VET course or unit delivered to AMEP clients.

In addition to this, the department has also mandated that all AMEP teachers must have an Australian three year undergraduate degree and a post graduate Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) qualification. The Department of Education and Training has determined that high quality and qualified teachers who have yet to complete their post graduate TESOL qualification can deliver AMEP social stream tuition while they complete their studies.

The social english stream has a standard for teacher qualifications that acknowledges the pace and progression of clients in this stream will be slower than the pre-employment stream. The standard also acknowledges that highly qualified teachers can be difficult to source in many regional and remote areas of Australia. This standard will enable AMEP service providers to attract and develop talented teachers within AMEP and offer them a career pathway within the program.