

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001125**

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

***Courses based on government funding***

**Question**

Page 9 of the RIS talks about research showing providers are offering courses on the basis of government funding rather than student and industry demands. What research is this referring to? When was this research completed? Was this provided to the Minister? When was a Minister of this Government first briefed on the issue?

**Answer**

The Mitchell Institute report *VET Funding in Australia, Background Trends and Future Directions*, published in March 2016 found 'Publicly subsidised enrolments are ultimately driven by public funding levels and as such the pattern of VET enrolments broadly follows the four expenditure phases.'

This report is available online at [http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/VET\\_funding\\_in\\_Australia\\_Background\\_trends\\_and\\_future\\_directions.pdf](http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/VET_funding_in_Australia_Background_trends_and_future_directions.pdf).

A range of submissions made into the *Senate Inquiry into the Operation, Regulation and Funding of Private Vocational Education and Training (VET) Providers in Australia*, announced on 24 November 2014 also made similar claims. The Education and Employment References Committee tabled its Final Report on 15 October 2015 which is available online at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Education\\_and\\_Employment/vocational/Final\\_Report](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/vocational/Final_Report).

Particular examples were provided by the Australian Council of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Service Skills Australia, the Consumer Action Law Centre, and the Workplace Research Centre (see pages 15–17).

Further evidence of these practices have been revealed through media and news articles and was also provided in stakeholder submissions in response to the Redesigning VET FEE-HELP Discussion Paper, released by the Government on 29 April 2016.

The department provided regular briefing to the Minister as part of the VET FEE-HELP redesign from early 2016 to the date of announcement. This included briefing on course delivery, course costs and industry demands.