

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: COAG VET national partnership and national agreement on skills

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rhiannon

QUESTION No.: BI-227

Excluding any possible HECS type student loans, is the Government insisting concessions must be provided for students suffering disadvantage or those students unable to afford higher fees? If not, why not?

ANSWER

Included in the outcomes sought by the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform is:

“more accessible training for working age Australians and, in particular, a more equitable training system, which provides greater opportunities for participation in education and training”.

Through the National Partnership Agreement, all states and territories will introduce and strengthen a national entitlement to a government subsidised training place to provide all working Australians access to a minimum of the first Certificate III qualification, including any foundation skills or lower level qualifications contained within a Certificate III, which will assist disadvantaged students.

State and territory governments are responsible for the administration of vocational education and training within their own jurisdiction which includes the application of concession arrangements.