



## Information for current VET FEE-HELP students

From 1 January 2017 VET FEE-HELP will cease and a new VET Student Loans program will commence.

Students currently financing their studies through a VET FEE-HELP loan will not be automatically transferred to the new VET Student Loans program.

### Are VET Student Loans different to VET FEE-HELP?

- Yes, the VET FEE-HELP scheme will cease on 31 December 2016 and the VET Student Loans program will be a significantly different program.
- Many courses currently available under VET FEE-HELP will not be eligible for assistance under the new arrangements.
- Some currently approved VET FEE-HELP providers may not be eligible to deliver courses under VET Student Loans.

### Why is this program replacing VET FEE-HELP?

- This program is being implemented to provide sustainable and affordable opportunities for students to undertake higher level VET courses.
- VET Student Loans align to, and provide students with, the skills to meet industry needs and employment outcomes.
- Under VET FEE-HELP, a number of providers offered courses they were not properly set up to deliver and used unscrupulous marketing practices to target potential students into signing up for courses they may not be ready to undertake, or to request a loan for a course without the proper resources to make an informed decision.
- VET Student Loans protects students by ensuring these behaviours do not persist.

### What if I'm part way through my course?

- The Government is mindful that current students may want to continue their studies under existing VET FEE-HELP arrangements.
- If you are a current continuing student accessing VET FEE-HELP, you have the option to continue accessing VET FEE-HELP with your existing provider\*\* until 31 December 2017. (*\*\* or a replacement provider on activation of tuition assurance arrangements*)
- In certain circumstances some students may be eligible to extend their VET FEE-HELP assistance beyond 1 January 2018. Such circumstances may include, for example, illness or caring responsibilities, or part-time students. Students will need to apply to continue using VET FEE-HELP for their existing course beyond 2017 and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Details on these arrangements will be published on the website in 2017.
- Students continuing their studies in 2017 will need to read the VET FEE-HELP opt-in fact sheet <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/42256>. If you do not let the department know you would like to continue, your access to VET FEE-HELP will cease if you have not opted-in by 31 March 2017.

## What if I've already signed up for a course that does not start until 2017?

- As the VET FEE-HELP scheme effectively ceases on 31 December 2016, you will no longer be eligible for VET FEE-HELP.
- You can apply to access VET Student Loans from 1 January 2017, should your course be eligible.
- A list of eligible courses can be found at [www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans](http://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans).
- Students wanting to apply for VET Student Loans should read the factsheet 'Information for Students'.

## What happens to students enrolled at a provider that is not successful in the 2017 application round?

- Some students may find themselves studying at providers that were granted six month provisional approval for VET Student Loans in 2017, but were unsuccessful in the full application round, and are therefore unable to deliver any VET Student Loans courses after 30 June 2017.
- These students will be entitled to finish any unit of study where the census date fell on or before 30 June 2017 with their current provider, with access to a VET Student Loan for that unit.
- To complete their course, these students may either remain with their current provider and pay for remaining units themselves or transfer to an approved VET Student Loans provider.
- *Note, providers that are not approved for VET Student Loans may still offer VET FEE-HELP assistance to continuing students that have followed the opt-in process (see <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/42256>).*

## Where can I find out more?

- Before making a decision, it is recommended that students speak to their training providers and visit [www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans](http://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans) where more information on the new measures and transition arrangements can be found.
- If you have a VET FEE-HELP debt you will continue paying this off as you currently do. To view your HELP balance visit [www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Study-and-training-support-loans](http://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Study-and-training-support-loans).

Information on VET Student Loans approved training providers and courses, including fees, will be available on Australia's Training Directory, [www.myskills.gov.au](http://www.myskills.gov.au).

**For more information, visit** [www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans](http://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans)

- Students can submit an online enquiry to the department using the online form located at [www.education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-students](http://www.education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-students) or contact the HELP Student Enquiry line on 1800 020 108

**Please note:** The purpose of this information factsheet is to give you a snapshot of the new VET Student Loans program. It is not inclusive of all requirements of the new program. This factsheet should be read in conjunction with other factsheets [www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans](http://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans).

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