

Statement of VET Tuition Assurance – VET Student Loans

Policy and Procedure

Purpose:

The Australian Government will implement interim tuition assurance arrangements for the 2018 calendar year, for VET Student Loans, FEE-HELP and remaining grandfathered VET FEE-HELP students. The Department of Education and Training will develop sustainable tuition assurance models for implementation after 2018.

These changes only apply to tuition assurance arrangements for VET delivery that:

- is done under the VET Student Loans program, or
- relates to delivery to grandfathered students under the former VET FEE-HELP scheme.

Policy Outline:

Definitions

Original course	A course that a course provider ceased to provide after the course started but before it was completed
Affected part	Of an original course. A part of the course that a student was enrolled in when the course ceased to be provided
Replacement course	a course provided under a tuition assurance arrangement to enable a student to finish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an original course; or • a course that is equivalent to an original course.
Replacement provider	a course provider who provides a replacement course under a tuition assurance arrangement.

RuralBiz Training is required to provide tuition assurance arrangements to students who are currently enrolled in approved courses (VET) for VET Student Loans. The Australian Government will implement interim tuition assurance arrangements for the 2018 calendar year, for VET Student Loans, FEE-HELP and remaining grandfathered VET FEE-HELP students.

This requirement is to protect students in the event that RuralBiz Training ceases to provide an original course (approved courses for VET Student Loans) or the affected parts of the original course in which the student is enrolled before it is completed.

Procedure:

In the event that RuralBiz Training ceases to provide an original course (approved courses for VET Student Loans) or the affected parts of the original course in which the student is enrolled before it is completed:

- The student will be contacted by the Tuition Assurance Administrator who will offer a replacement course
- The Tuition Assurance Administrator will ensure that the replacement course is the same as the original course or equivalent to the original course (approved course for VET Student Loans) in accordance with the tuition assurance arrangements requirements
- A student may seek a review of a decision about whether or not a course is a replacement course
- If the student accepts the offer of a replacement course, the student will:
 - not be required to pay the replacement provider for the replacement components of the replacement course; and
 - receive course credits for parts of the original course successfully completed
- The tuition fees for remainder of the replacement course may be different from the fees payable for the original course;
- The student will have a period of 6 months in which to accept the offer
- The Tuition Assurance Administrator may extend that period of 6 months in circumstances that justify an extension;
- If there is no suitable replacement course, the student's VET Student Loan/VET FEE-HELP balance will be re-credited for the affected parts of the original course approved course for VET Student Loans
- If the student enrolls in another course that is not a replacement course, the student:
 - may be required to pay additional tuition fees; and
 - might not receive the course credits that the student would have received if he/she had enrolled in the replacement course, as offered by the tuition assurance scheme operator.

For further information, please contact the Tuition Assurance Administrator or refer to the website.

Phone - 1300 259 044

Email - administrator@ta.education.gov.au

Website - www.education.gov.au/tuition-assurance-and-provider-closures

Should RuralBiz Training cease to provide a course after commencement but before it has been completed, the following will apply:

- Within 2 days, RuralBiz Training will notify students in writing enrolled in the course that the course is no longer being provided



- Within 7 business days after notifying the students, RuralBiz Training will hold a meeting with the students and the tuition assurance scheme operator for the course at the location where the course was primarily delivered
- As soon as practicable, RuralBiz Trainings website will be updated to reflect that the course is no longer being provided and to give tuition assurance information
- Give the operator notice of events as required under sections 52(information about events that affect provider) and 53(notice and information when course ceases); As soon as practicable after receiving notice from the operator required under subsection 73(2) (notice that a student's FEE-HELP balance must be re-credited) re-credit the student's FEE-HELP balance.

Documents Referenced:

VET Student Loans Rules 2016

VET Student Loans Act 2016