



LPA raises concern with VET Student Loans Eligible Course List

Dear Member,

LPA has written to the Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, raising our serious concern with regard to the high number of live performance, and more broadly creative arts courses, that have been excluded from the Federal Government's proposed VET Student Loans Eligible Course List.

From 1 January 2017, the Government intends to introduce VET Student Loans to replace the current VET FEE-HELP scheme, in which students will only be able to access VET Student Loans for some courses.

While LPA supports the Government's intention to "offer greater protections for students and provide access to quality higher level VET qualifications that address industry needs and create better opportunities for employment", we believe the lack of proper industry consultation has led to the exclusion of nationally reputable performing arts courses on the eligible course list. The exclusion of these courses may create unintended consequences that result in our industry's workforce needs being unmet in the long-term.

We have requested that the Department of Education and Training consult with industry stakeholders to determine how a new VET Student Loan scheme can best support our skills requirements, prior to any final decisions being made.

A copy of LPA's letter to Minister Simon Birmingham can be found [here](#).

Further information on the new VET Student Loans scheme can be found on the [Department of Education and Training website](#).

LPA will keep Members updated as further issues arise.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the **LPA Policy Team** via [email](#) or call (03) 8614 2000.

Kind regards,

Evelyn Richardson
LPA Chief Executive



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