VET FEE-HELP

Training and Tertiary Education Forum

December 2011

To be covered...

- TSSB Branch – who are we?
- What is VET FEE-HELP and how does it work?
- Who is eligible to offer VET FEE-HELP?
- What does an applicant need to demonstrate?
- Support and resources available
Tertiary Student Support Branch - DEEWR

- Branch Manager Neil McAuslan
- Communication and Student Support Unit Kellie McInnes
- Application Management Unit Shelley Owen
- Provider Management Unit Eleanor Bates
- Financial Viability and Payments Tony Mitchener
- Policy and Legislation Jayne Crompton

What is VET FEE-HELP?

- An income contingent loan scheme for the VET sector that is an extension of FEE-HELP, part of the Higher Education Loan Program.
- Assists eligible full fee paying students to pay for all or part of their tuition fees at approved VET providers when studying one or more of the following VET accredited courses of study:
  - diploma*; advanced diploma*; graduate certificate; graduate diploma
  - With an approved credit transfer arrangement to a Bachelor Degree with a Higher Education Provider (HEP) in non reform State/Territory.
How VET FEE-HELP works

- Commonwealth pays tuition fees to the VET provider (on a monthly basis)
- Student incurs liability after a “census date” set by the VET provider
- Students repay their loan through the tax system when income is above the minimum income threshold (currently $47,195)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A VET PROVIDER?
What is an approved VET provider (2)

- An “approved VET provider” is a body corporate that has been approved by the Minister to offer VET FEE-HELP assistance to its students.
- Only approved VET providers can offer VET FEE-HELP to eligible students.

To be approved, RTOs have to meet 3 main criteria:

1. Entity structure
2. Financial Viability
3. Student matters
**Entity structure**

- Must be a “fit and proper” Body Corporate entity
- Centred in Australia
- Principle purpose is, or is taken to be, education
- Applicants must provide GILS form, strategic/business plans, and establishing documentation

**Financial Viability**

- Be Financially Viable and likely to remain Financially Viable
- As assessed by the Minister’s delegate
- Information to be provided is outlined in the VFH Financial Viability Instructions – for applicants
Student matters

- Must offer: (as listed in TGA scope)
  - VET diploma or advanced diploma courses (with CTA – except in Reform S/T)
  - VET graduate certificate and graduate diploma courses
- Tuition Assurance arrangements in place for all approved VET courses
- Meet specific requirements in relation to students – student policies (grievances, fairness, quality etc)

VET FEE-HELP

Resources and Applicant support
VET FEE-HELP Resources (1)

Legislation
- Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA) – Schedule 1A
- Ministerial Determinations under the Act

Legislative Guidelines (i.e. Regulations)
- VET Provider Guidelines
- VET Administration Guidelines
- VET FEE-HELP Guidelines

Other resource material
- VET Provider Handbook (explanatory information)
- VET FEE-HELP Financial Viability Documents
- VET FEE-HELP Information booklet (2012) – student information booklet

VET FEE-HELP Resources (2)

- VITS User guide – available from VITS

- Website:

- E-mail – general enquiries:
  - tsenquiries@deewr.gov.au
Support for applicants

- Application Assistance pack
- Financial Viability Instructions

Thank you

QUESTIONS