

COLLEGES OF TAFE, CLASS SIZES AND WORKLOAD OF LECTURERS

1024. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for Education and Training

- (1) Is the Minister aware of community concern raised late last year with regard to the impact on TAFE lecturers from ever increasing class sizes and workload?
- (2) Will the Minister advise how current class sizes in TAFE colleges compares with class sizes over the past three years?
- (3) Will the Minister advise how the current workload and salary levels of TAFE lecturers compares with their counterparts in other States?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware of the community's concern.
- (2) Class sizes across TAFE vary considerably depending on region, discipline area and type of delivery. There has been no change to funding arrangements for TAFE colleges requiring any class size adjustments.
- (3) There is no data collected on TAFE lecturers' 'workload' in Western Australia and I am not aware of any other State collecting data on their TAFE lecturers' 'workload'. There would need to be a generally accepted definition across Australia of what comprises TAFE lecturers' workload to draw any meaningful comparisons, if data were available. Nonetheless, it is likely that no two TAFE lecturers in Australia have an identical 'workload' in the normal sense of the term.

TAFE Lecturers salaries are comparable to their interstate colleagues, both at the Lecturer level and promotional positions. Western Australian salaries are in the upper mid-range across Australia.

Attached is a table that shows current TAFE lecturers' salary levels in the different States and Territories of Australia. [See paper No 925.]