



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Training and Workforce Development

Page No.

The Committee asked:

1. *What are some of the implications for your agency from the Commonwealth Budget released on 8 May 2018?*

Answer:

The 2018-19 Commonwealth Budget includes a revised funding offer for a new National Partnership Agreement on Skilling Australians Fund (NPSAF) over four years, commencing 1 July 2018.

This revised funding offer supersedes the previous NPSAF offer announced in the 2017-18 Commonwealth Budget, noting that;

1. the NPSAF replaces the previous National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform that expired on June 30 2017, which included a final payment to Western Australia of \$54 million for 2016-17, and
2. as at the 8 May 2018 Commonwealth budget, no jurisdiction had signed up to the NPSAF with the Commonwealth.

The total amount of funding available for the revised NPSAF is estimated at \$1.2 billion over the four years, down from \$1.5 billion offered in the 2017-18 Commonwealth budget. Western Australia's nominal share of the new agreement is estimated to be \$126 million over the forward estimates, compared to \$159 million under the previous offer in the 2017-18 budget.

Under the Commonwealth Government's new National Partnership Agreement the State currently stands to lose \$54 million per annum from 2017/18, leaving the State to pick up the shortfall.

The NPSAF funding offer restricts funding almost exclusively to apprenticeships, traineeships and pre-apprenticeships and contains a range of prescriptions that exposes the State to significant financial risk. There has been no change to the restrictive terms and conditions contained in the original NPSAF offer in the 2017-18 budget.

The Commonwealth budget also provides for \$250 million total funding in 2017-18 for projects that support apprenticeships and traineeships. The funding offer has been made under separate arrangements to the National Partnership.

There is still considerable uncertainty around the process and requirements to access these funds and the associated risks and conditions.

Public / Internet

13/06/18

The State Government receives base funding from the Commonwealth Government through the National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development (NASWD). The NASWD is an ongoing Specific Purpose Payment based on national population share and is indexed on an annual basis.

The Commonwealth Budget indicates Western Australia will receive \$157.7 million of NASWD funding in 2018-19 and \$639.8 million over the forward estimates to 2021-22.

The 2018-19 Commonwealth funding allocation under the NASWD represents a reduction in funding of \$4 million over the forward estimates compared to the 2017-18 budget.



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Hon Peter Collier MLC asked:

1. *How many Aboriginal people were employed by the agency/department on July 1st 2017 and April 30th 2018?*

Answer:

Date	Head count*
01/07/2017	21
30/04/2018	15

Note: the decrease from 21 to 15 is largely attributed to the transfer of Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre positions to the new Jobs and Skills Centres established in the metropolitan TAFE Colleges.

2. *How many Aboriginal people employed by the agency/department were Level 8 and above (including Senior Executive Service positions) on July 1st 2017 and April 30th 2018?*

Answer:

Date	Head count
01/07/2017	1
30/04/2018	1



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

- 1. What is the expected total expenditure by the Department of Training and Workforce Development on government advertising in 2018-19?*

Answer:

Estimated general advertising expenditure is \$220,600.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

2. *I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1 at page 310 'Significant Issues Impacting the Agency' and I ask:*

a) *With respect to the revamping of the State Training Board and Industry Training Councils, when is this process expected to be completed?*

Answer:

30 June 2019

b) *Please provide all changes intended to be implemented as part of the revamp*

Answer:

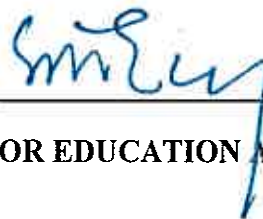
A direct reporting relationship between the State Training Board and Industry Training Councils will commence on 1 July 2018. The State Training Board is working to identify ways to strengthen the current industry training advisory arrangements. This will include examination of the governance of the training councils, industry coverage, key deliverables, service activities and key performance indicators that will apply from 1 July 2019.

The State Training Board will work with industry training councils through this transition period to identify opportunities to enhance the current industry training advisory arrangements.

c) *Please list any associated costs for the proposed changes?*

Answer:

Changes proposed will be managed within existing resources.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

3. *I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1 at page 314 'Career and Workforce Development Services' and I ask: What is the current status of the Jobs and Skills Centres located at TAFE Colleges?*

Answer:

On 16 April 2018, five metropolitan Jobs and Skills Centres opened on TAFE campuses in Joondalup, Balga, Northbridge, Thornlie and Rockingham.

Consultations and planning with TAFE colleges and contracted service providers are progressing with further Centres anticipated to open in 2018 in Peel, Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Northam, Karratha and Broome.

The Jobs and Skills Centres are supported by the new Jobs and Skills WA website which was also launched in April 2018. The website is a digital one-stop-shop providing customers with everything they need to know relating to training and careers. A key component of the website is a course search function which enables users to search all publically funded courses available in WA for the first time. The website also provides direct links into work through a Jobs Board and Aboriginal specific Jobs Board.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

4. *Please provide a list of the total maintenance expenditure (by TAFE College) since the latest Building and Condition Assessment was undertaken?*

Answer:

College	Total
North Metropolitan TAFE	\$46,209,840.36
South Metropolitan TAFE	\$27,854,685.67
North Regional TAFE	\$13,820,561.66
Central Regional TAFE	\$8,196,219.42
South Regional TAFE	\$10,599,500.10

The last Building and Condition Assessment was undertaken in 2012-13.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

5. *I refer to traineeship statistics and I ask: With respect to traineeships, as at 31 December 2017, what is the breakdown 'in training' by trade category and its percentage of the total number in training?*

Answer:

Trade category	As at 31/12/2017	
	In training	% of Total in training
Arts, Sport & Recreation	113	0.7%
Automotive	128	0.8%
Building & Construction	641	3.8%
Community Services, Health & Education	1,507	8.8%
Finance, Property & Business Services	4,299	25.2%
Food	217	1.3%
Hospitality & Tourism	2,339	13.7%
Light Manufacturing	56	0.3%
Metals, Manufacturing & Services	131	0.8%
Mining Industry	2,024	11.9%
Primary Industry	330	1.9%
Process Manufacturing	1,441	8.5%
Public Administration	187	1.1%
Transport & Storage	2,010	11.8%
Utilities, Electrotechnology & Printing	414	2.4%
Wholesale, Retail & Personal Services	1,211	7.1%
Total	17,048	100.0%



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

6. *I refer to apprenticeship statistics and I ask: With respect to apprenticeships, as at 31 December 2017, what is the breakdown 'in training' by trade category and its percentage of the total number in training?*

Answer:

Trade category	As at 31/12/2017	
	In training	% of Total in training
Arts, Sport & Recreation	8	0.1%
Automotive	2,701	17.9%
Building & Construction	3,297	21.9%
Community Services, Health and Education	22	0.1%
Electrical	3,451	22.9%
Food	393	2.6%
Hospitality & Tourism	620	4.1%
Light Manufacturing	489	3.2%
Metals, Manufacturing & Services	2,856	18.9%
Primary Industry	152	1.0%
Process Manufacturing	19	0.1%
Utilities, Electrotechnology and Printing	182	1.2%
Wholesale, Retail & Personal Services	890	5.9%
Total	15,080	100.0%


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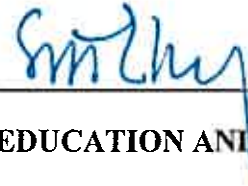
Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

7. *As at 1 May 2018, what is the total number of apprenticeships "in training"?*

Answer:

For the 2018 year, the total number of apprentices in training is 15,945.

Due to the notification and processing of contract variations and outcomes, data is not considered reliable until at least two months from contract commencement. This data is current until 28 February 2018 only.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

8. *As at 1 May 2018, what is the total number of traineeships "in training"?*

Answer:

For the 2018 year, the total number of trainees in training is 17,256.

Due to the notification and processing of contract variations and outcomes, data is not considered reliable until at least two months from contract commencement. This data is current until 28 February 2018 only.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

9. *For the 2018 year (to 1 May 2018), what is the total number of "commenced" apprenticeships?*

Answer:

For the 2018 year, the total number of apprenticeship commencements is 2,133.

Due to the notification and processing of contract variations and outcomes, data is not considered reliable until at least two months from contract commencement. This data is current until 28 February 2018 only.



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Hon Donna Faragher MLC asked:

10. *For the 2018 year (to 1 May 2018), what is the total number of "commenced" traineeships?*

Answer:

For the 2018 year, the total number of traineeship commencements is 2,297.

Due to the notification and processing of contract variations and outcomes, data is not considered reliable until at least two months from contract commencement. This data is current until 28 February 2018 only.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

- 1. Recruitment and Management of International Students - Given the reduced number of students and the tightening of Federal visas, what do you anticipate happening in this space over the next few years? Is the Department undertaking any advocacy with the Federal Government around student visas, given the positive flow-on effects of international students?*

Answer:

The Department of Training and Workforce Development works with the following peak industry bodies to raise issues and concerns:

- TAFE Directors Australia;
- English Australia;
- International Education Association of Australia; and
- Australian Government Schools International.

The peak bodies are represented on the Commonwealth Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC). The EVCC facilitates consultation between the Department of Home Affairs and key international education sector stakeholders on policy matters and emerging trends and issues that may impact on student visas.

The Australian student visa program has had an impact on the Western Australian TAFE sector as growth in key markets has been dampened to manage risk ratings under the Commonwealth Government's student visa framework. Overall, however, the student visa program is robust with numbers of international student in Australia exceeding 500,000. This represents growth of 12% from 2017 to 2018.

Western Australia has, for a variety of complex and intersecting reasons, not experienced the same level of growth as other Australian states.

In order to support the growth of the sector in Western Australia the Government is developing an International Education Strategy led by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

It is anticipated that this strategy will provide a framework for the TAFE sector, private providers, schools and universities to collaborate on the development of products and services that will enhance the position of Western Australia as an international study destination.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

2. *Item: Skilled Migration - What was the one-off savings in 2017-18?*

Answer:

The 2017-18 Estimated Actual (\$1.5 million) is lower than the 2017-18 Budget (\$2 million) by \$0.5 million largely due to lower salaries and contract for service expenditure and Departmental overhead allocation due to the FTE reduction.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

3 *Career and Workforce Development Services Item: Services largely being transitioned to Jobs and Skills Centres located at the TAFE Colleges –*

a) *What central locations will remain?*

Answer:

A State-wide network of Jobs and Skills Centres is being established in five metropolitan and eight regional locations across Western Australia. These new services will mainly be located at TAFE colleges, however, services will be provided at additional outreach locations to extend the service reach, with support from contracted service providers.

On 16 April 2018, Jobs and Skills Centres opened at the following metropolitan locations: Joondalup, Balga, Northbridge, Thornlie and Rockingham.

b) *What services will be offered at those central locations?*

Answer:

The Jobs and Skills Centres provide free professional and practical advice on training and employment opportunities including careers advice, apprenticeship and training information, help with job searching and direct links into work. The Centre will also engage with industry and help business to develop the workforce they need to support business growth.

c) *What is happening to the staff that have been working in those locations?*

Answer:

Staff from the Department's Perth Career Centre and Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre have been transferred to TAFE colleges to be part of the Jobs and Skills Centres. Affected staff were consulted on the proposed service model and the staff arrangements were determined with consideration for staff location preferences. A small number of staff remain with the Department of Training and Workforce Development in a system support and coordination role.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

4. *Workforce Planning and Development Note a – This note is repeated across the Services and Key Efficiency Indicators section “... revision to Departmental own-source revenue that is not-linked to a specific service.”*

a) *What is own-source revenue?*

Answer:

Own-source revenue that is not-linked to a specific service largely includes revenue from the WA Training Awards, staff vehicle contributions and other recoups, and commercial activity associated with professional development and the production and sale of learning resources to the VET sector.

b) *Why was it revised?*

Answer:

To correct overstated levels of commercial activity associated with professional development and the production and sale of learning resources to the VET sector.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

5. *Section: Significant Issues Affecting the Agency – Item: Specialist curriculum to address the skill needs of displaced workers in the resource sector –*

a) *Will any training that comes out of this process be delivered by South Metro TAFE only?*

Answer:

South Metropolitan TAFE is partnering with Rio Tinto to develop specialist curriculum and qualifications to address the evolving skills requirements of new technology and automation in the resources sector.

Training will be delivered by South Metropolitan TAFE and other TAFE colleges.

b) *Will other TAFE providers have opportunities to become part of this process for the anticipated future displaced workforce?*

Answer:

Yes.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

6. *Section: Significant Issues Affecting the Agency – Item: State Training Board and Industry Stakeholders - Aged care, allied health and community services are called out as areas in which we are anticipating large training needs.*

a) *Do we have a timeframe for which the policies will be developed and the resources allocated?*

Answer:

The State Training Board is currently researching and consulting with stakeholders on the skilled workforce needs of the Social Assistance and Allied Health industry. The Board is due to report on its findings and recommendations to the Minister for Education and Training by July 2018.

b) *Do we have a sense of the order of magnitude of the resources that may be required?*

Answer:

The Commonwealth Department of Employment estimates that an additional 250,000 workers will be required by the healthcare and social assistance industry in Australia over the next 5 years.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development already assigns a high priority to funding training places for qualifications relevant to the healthcare and social assistance industry. As part of normal processes, the Department will monitor and direct training resources as needed to meet future demand.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

7. *Section: Significant Issues Affecting the Agency – Item: Introducing a Quality Control System - Is this different to the auditing that was reported in the 2016-17 annual report?*

Answer:

It is an enhancement to the audit and compliance monitoring reported in the 2016-17 annual report. The Quality Control System has a focus on improved risk assessment of private RTOs and an increase in the number of onsite Audits planned for 2018. The new system will also have a greater focus on outcomes including student and employer surveys and completion rates against established benchmarks. A framework is being developed which will include for the first time a public statement from the Government on the expectations for the VET sector that underpins quality RTO service provision.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

8: *Section: Significant Issues Affecting the Agency – Item: Craft industry apprenticeships from WA providers in answer to QWN 297 on 27th of June 2017, discussions were being held at that time with TAFE Colleges regarding reactivating this training –*

a) *Have the industry peak bodies provided advice about the impact of the proposed changes?*

Answer:

Industry Training Councils and in particular the Food, Fibre and Timber Industry Training Council (representing 5 of the 6 returning craft industries) has been closely involved in the discussions around the return of craft industry training to Western Australia. A launch for the return of craft industries was held in April and a number of industry bodies were represented at that event including The Carpet Industry Association; The Floor Covering Institute of Australia; Specialised Textiles Association; Cabinet Makers Association; WA Furniture Manufacturers Association; Australasian Timber Flooring Association; and Innovation and Business Skills Australia.

b) *If yes, what is that advice?*

Answer:

Industry Associations are highly supportive of the return of Craft Industries to Western Australia

c) *Which interstate providers are currently offering any of the identified craft industry qualifications in Western Australia?*

Answer:

Outsource Institute of Technology

- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Casting and Moulding)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Pattern Making)

Educational Services and Consultants

- Certificate III in Farriery

d) *Have any TAFE colleges agreed to take on this craft industry training? If so, which qualifications and which colleges?*

Answer:

North Metropolitan TAFE will be responsible for delivery of the craft industry qualifications.

- Certificate III in Automotive and Marine Trimming Technology
- Certificate III in Furniture Making (Wood Machining)
- Certificate III In Furniture Finishing
- Certificate III in Flooring Technology
- Certificate III Textile Fabrication
- Certificate III in Upholstery



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

9. *Section: Significant Issues Affecting the Agency – Item: Regional specific occupation lists – I note that there are nine economic regions and six TAFE colleges to service those regions. Some colleges, such as Central Regional TAFE cover a massive geographical area and service very different economies.*

a) Are the cost-savings for the TAFE college restructure progressing as expected?

Answer:

Yes (Note there are three regional and two metropolitan TAFE Colleges).

b) Do you anticipate that the outcome of the regional labour review will have any comment on the current structure of the TAFE colleges?

Answer:

No.



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

10. *Section: Spending Changes Item: Repositioning of Expenses for training delivery – 14,300,000.*

a) *How many training places did this equate to?*

Answer:

Approximately 5,500.

b) *Are you able to give an estimate of how many of these places were TAFE places and how many were private provider places?*

Answer:

Approximately 50% TAFE places and 50% private provider places



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Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

11. *Section: Spending Changes – Item: National Partnership Agreement - the Federal Government is offering the State a raw deal. If we can come to no agreement, how is it proposed to cover this massive gap in funding?*

Answer:

The State Government has already moved to cover the gap in Commonwealth funding. The Government has removed the exemption from payroll tax for employers of existing worker trainees and re-directed the savings to fund an additional 43,350 training places over the forward estimates.

The State is continuing negotiations with the Commonwealth on a new National Partnership on Skilling Australians Fund to ensure that they make a fair contribution to training in Western Australia.



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