



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Training**  
and **Workforce Development**

D11/0751920

Dr J M Woollard, MLA  
Chair  
Education and Health Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Attention: Dr Brian Gordon



Dear Dr Woollard *[Signature]*

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 September 2011 regarding the Inquiry into improving educational outcomes for Western Australians of all ages.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development has examined the Inquiry Terms of Reference and our submission is provided in the attachment to this letter.

The Department is strongly committed to increasing educational outcomes and skill levels of Western Australians of all ages and will be very interested in any information resulting from this Inquiry.

Should you require further information please contact Ms Yvonne Herft, Principal Consultant by telephone on 6551 5519 or email at [yvonne.herft@dtwd.wa.gov.au](mailto:yvonne.herft@dtwd.wa.gov.au).

Thank you for consulting with the Department on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

DR RUTH SHEAN  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

13 DEC 2011

Att

## **EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE — INQUIRY INTO IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIANS OF ALL AGES**

The issue of improving education outcomes for Western Australians is one which the Department of Training and Workforce Development recognises as key to increasing the participation Western Australians in the workforce.

The Department manages publicly funded training in Western Australia which is delivered by a statewide network of around 370 private registered training organisations (PRTOs) and 12 State Training Providers (STPs). As the lead agency for training and workforce planning, the Department recognises that the development of the State's workforce is critical to the continued economic growth of the Western Australian economy.

The Department is committed to effective and productive partnerships between education and training providers and industry as this is seen as essential to remove barriers to participation in the workforce and building, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce to meet the economic needs of the State.

The information provided below describes the Department's funded activities and response to the Inquiry Terms of Reference No's: 1, 3 and 4.

### **Term of Reference 1 — Current and future resourcing of new methods and activities to improve educational outcomes such as e-learning and school partnerships**

#### ***On-line and e-learning initiatives***

The Department provides a range of services to the Western Australian vocational education and training sector in the area of e-learning:

- support for training organisations by providing free e-learning services to STPs and at cost recovery to PRTOs. Services include learning management systems, virtual conferencing, and e-portfolio;
- development and marketing of digital learning resources for registered training organisations (RTOs) to use in their online delivery;
- professional development to vocational education and training practitioners in the use of e-learning technologies and the development of digital learning resources for online training; and
- management of the Commonwealth funded activity of the *National VET E-learning Strategy 2012–2015* for Western Australia including the following:
  - E-learning Coordinator — provides advice and support to training organisations on how to implement e-learning into their training delivery;
  - Content Services Advisor — an expert in the development and customisation of digital learning resources for online training, providing support and advice to organisations regarding online delivery;
  - the “Access to Skills” Business Activity — project management of 17 projects across Australia that will run between January and June 2012; and
  - Annual E-learning Conference — a full day event run each year to bring together training organisations and e-learning experts.

The Department's Career Centre provides people of all ages with high quality career advice and training information including face to face, telephone and online self help services. In 2010–11, 172 098 people contacted the Career Centre.

### **Term of Reference 3 — Facilitating greater opportunities to engage all students in Years 11 and 12**

#### ***National Partnership Youth Attainment and Transitions (NP–YAT)***

The Department has established a productive working relationship with the Australian Government to progress a range of reforms and initiatives to support improved participation and attainment targets for 15–24 year olds.

The Council of Australian Governments' National Partnership Youth Attainment and Transitions (NP–YAT) between States and Territories seeks to implement a suite of reforms and initiatives targeted at young people aged 15–24. These include achieving an increased Year 12 or equivalent attainment rate; better engaging young people in education and training; and assisting young people to make a successful transition from schooling into further education, training or employment.

As the manager and coordinator of the NP–YAT in Western Australia, the Department is working with key stakeholders to facilitate provision of a range of reforms and initiatives with the aim of increasing and maximising engagement, attainment and successful transitions for 15–24 year olds.

Many of these initiatives/reforms are about trialling new ways of working and new models. Following a full evaluation at the end of the NP–YAT funding period (2014) the State will be in a position to make key recommendations.

#### ***VET in Schools (VETiS)***

The Department provides significant support for VET in Schools (VETiS) across a range of programs for the school aged target group, the majority of which are in years 11 and 12. Provision includes delivery through:

- ordinary (institution based) delivery through STPs;
- school based apprenticeships and traineeships through STPs;
- school based pre-apprenticeships through STPs and PRTOS;
- At Risk School Age Student Program through STPs and PRTOS;
- Aboriginal School Based Training program through STPs and private training providers; and
- NP–YAT additional delivery funding for all three schools sectors through STPs and private training providers.

Eligible year 11 and 12 students can be enrolled under Notices of Arrangement to participate in VET programs outside of normal schooling arrangements.

A considerable amount of VETiS delivery is also done under auspicing arrangements with STPs. This is where the delivery is actually done in and by the schools, but the STPs monitor the quality of the delivery and assessment processes under fee for service arrangements.

There is continuing demand for VETiS delivery in all its forms.

## **Term of Reference 4 — Improving access and opportunities for adult learning in regional and remote Western Australia.**

### ***Regional Workforce Development Plans***

The Department recognises the significant impact Western Australia's regional communities have on the State's economy. A key part of the *Skilling WA — A workforce development plan for Western Australia* is the development of Regional Workforce Development Plans (Plans) which outline key challenges to workforce development in each of the nine regions of the State for a four year period. The Plans provide industry, government and community sector strategies at a local and State level to address the issues identified by the local community.

A workforce development alliance is established in each region to oversee the development and implementation of the regional workforce development plan. Alliance members are generally nominated by the local Regional Development Commission. The Alliances typically consist of representation from local chambers of commerce and industry, business owners, local government representation (representing community aspirations), relevant government agencies, the local State Training Provider, not for profit community organisations and other stakeholders as required.

Once the Plan is completed, the Alliances in each region are responsible for overseeing the implementation of it in collaboration with the Department and other relevant agencies.

### ***Programs***

In addition to the RTOs in the regions receiving State funding to deliver training, the Department also funds a number of targeted programs which improve access and opportunities for adult learning in regional and remote WA, including:

- *Community learning in focus — A strategy for Adult and Community Education in Western Australia (2009–2018)* provides a number of grant programs for community based organisations. These support non accredited learning activities that provide pathways for under represented groups in the community to re-engage with education, training and/or employment. In 2011, the Department funded 11 organisations to provide community learning activities that contribute to the development of a person's skills and knowledge and encourage social participation. Six of these organisations were in regional areas.
- The Equity Development and Innovation programs provide creative and innovative non-accredited learning programs in a community setting. They aim to develop skills and confidence that will pave the way for people to access further education and training in preparation for work. In 2011 thirteen organisations were successful in obtaining grants for projects. Four of these organisations were in regional areas.
- First Click and Second Click programs help people take the first steps toward computer literacy. In 2010–11, the Department funded 50 not for profit community based organisations across the State to provide free computer literacy skills training. Twenty five of these programs were in regional areas and more than 2800 people participated.

- Access Program — the Department purchases training from RTOs for equity target groups. This meets the needs of community members who face barriers, due to their personal circumstances, which prevent them from accessing mainstream training programs. In 2010 the Access Program provided 3590 course enrolments. Over seventy courses were delivered in regional areas.
- Workforce Development Centres (WDCs) provide career development services to assist individuals of any age at any point in their lives with making informed educational, training and occupational choices. WDCs provide services statewide through four metropolitan, eight regional centres and two specialist centres (ex-offenders and culturally and linguistically diverse client groups).
- *Training together — working together: Aboriginal workforce development strategy* is a strategy for industry, community and government that will ensure that Aboriginal people have an improved opportunity to participate in the State's emerging and future skills requirements and job opportunities.
- Four regional Aboriginal Workforce Development Centres (AWDCs) were established and a metropolitan AWDC started operating in 2010. The role of the centres is to achieve sustainable employment outcomes for Aboriginal people. The centres work with existing services to broker and facilitate access to training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

These programs are supported by visits from Department staff to RTOs in regional areas to provide advice on the uptake and implementation of e-learning in their training organisations. They also run online workshops for practitioners which can be attended from anywhere in Western Australia by using a headset with microphone plugged into a PC or laptop.

Department data indicates that there has been a significant increase in the level of training delivery for regional and remote areas over the past few years.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development is strongly committed to increasing educational outcomes and skill levels of Western Australians of all ages and will be very interested in any information resulting from this Inquiry.

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