

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C1080

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 12 December 2013

Hon Adele Farina to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to the Minister's answer to my question without notice No. 943 and I ask —

1. How are students supposed to make decisions about TAFE studies if the 2014 course fees schedule is not available until 'on or around 18 December'?
2. Will the 2014 course fees schedule be available on the Department's website on the day of gazettal?
3. As the 2014 course fees schedule is a disallowable instrument and its late gazettal will prevent Parliament from scrutinising the fees until Parliament resumes in 2014, will payments for 2014 courses be reimbursed to students if the 2014 fees are disallowed?

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I thank the member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Training and Workforce Development.



(1) State Training Providers are currently enrolling students seeking to study in 2014 on a provisional basis and advising students of the anticipated course fees in accordance with the indicative course fee schedule as outlined in the Student Fees fact sheet published on the Department of Training and Workforce Development's website. I table the fact sheet entitled "Student fees" and note that this fact sheet has previously been provided to the Hon Member.

(2) The indicative course fees currently published on the Department of Training and Workforce Development's website will be confirmed once the course fee schedule is officially gazetted.

(3) State Training Providers will be able to transact the course fees once the course fee schedule is officially gazetted. Consideration of the outcomes of any disallowance procedure will be made at that time.



## Student fees

### What are the changes to student fees?

Students will need to contribute more to the costs of training to ensure that government subsidised training remains sustainable in future years. Currently student course fees overall make up about 8% of the total cost of training and the State Government subsidises the other 92%.

While student fees will increase from 1 January 2014, the vast majority of training costs will continue to be subsidised by the State Government. In general, fees will be changing to reflect the relative priority of a qualification, with high priority qualifications attracting the lower fees to encourage students into areas of training that meet State and industry need.

### How much will I pay?

Indicative fee rates for non-concession students are outlined below. The fee rates reflect government policy determinations and will be finalised when the fees schedule is officially gazetted and published later in the year.

Qualification Category	Indicative Qualification Fees* (Course Fee per Student Curriculum Hour)			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Diploma and Advanced Diploma	\$5.53	\$5.73	\$5.90	\$6.05
Apprenticeships, Traineeships, and Priority Industry Training (Certificate II to IV)	\$2.49	\$3.09	\$3.68	\$4.29
General Industry Training (Certificate I to IV)	\$3.92	\$4.65	\$5.41	\$6.05
Foundation Skills Training				
CAVSS and USIQ **	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other foundation skills courses***	\$0.20	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.22

\*The indicative qualification fees include projected CPI adjustments. These fee rates do not include training provider based fees such as resource fees and other discretionary fees.

\*\*The Course in Applied Vocational Study Skills (CAVSS) and the Course in Underpinning Skills for Industry Qualifications (USIQ) are exempt from course fees.

\*\*\*The Department will shortly be publishing the *Foundation Skills List* which will list the courses and qualifications that may receive a government subsidy, subject to available budget.

Annual caps have been placed on course fees for government subsidised training:

- There will be a cap of \$400 per year for students of secondary school age who undertake training that is **not** part of a VET in Schools program, irrespective of the number of courses a student is enrolled in.

**Secondary school age** is defined as from 15 years of age to the end of the year in which the child reaches the age of 17 years and 6 months; or the child reaches the age of 18, whichever happens first.

In 2014, students of secondary school age will have been born between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 1999.

- course fees for Certificate I to IV courses will not exceed \$2,500 per course per year in 2014, and
- course fees for Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses will not exceed \$7,500 per course per year in 2014.

Training providers may apply additional fees, such as resource fees and parking, that will not be included in the annual cap.

All these caps apply to Priority Industry Qualifications, General Industry Training, eligible apprenticeships and traineeships and Foundation Skills courses, and to concessional and non-concessional students.

These caps do not include fees for Recognition of Prior Learning services, which are determined by individual training providers.

**Students may be eligible for a 50% concession on the standard fee rates.** Eligible students include holders of either a health care or pensioner concession card, recipients of AUSTUDY, ABSTUDY, or Youth Allowance, and people of secondary school age.

Students undertaking Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualifications may be able to access the Commonwealth Government's VET FEE-HELP Scheme to access a student loan (similar to HECS for university students) to cover the course fees.

To find out what fees will apply next year, contact your training provider who can provide an estimate of the total cost, including other fees that may be applicable, and also whether the student is eligible for a concession or access to the VET FEE-HELP loan scheme.

### **What assistance can I get?**

Providers will continue to have, at their discretion, the ability to grant students who experience financial hardship the option to pay their fees by instalment, or in cases of extreme financial hardship, the ability to waive fees altogether.

### **What if I am already studying?**

To assist students who have already commenced training and intend to continue training in 2014, a fee maintenance scheme will be introduced for 2014. This will enable eligible students to elect to have their fees maintained under the current fee structure during 2014 only, with a minor adjustment to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Students are eligible for the fee maintenance scheme if they undertook study in 2013 in a government subsidised qualification which they enrolled in prior to 22 August 2013, and enrol in the same qualification in 2014. To access fee maintenance, students will be required to provide evidence of their study in 2013 when enrolling in 2014.

All students will be required to pay fees in accordance with the new fee structure from 2015.