

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2020-21 Budget Estimates - 2 December 2020 3:00-4:30

Training and Skills

Responses to questions on notice

H1.

Portfolio:	Training and Skills, Higher Education
Witness:	Hon. Gayle Tierney, MLC
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan MP
Page of transcript:	p. 4

Mr RIORDAN: Okay, great. Minister, just moving to a very parochial question for me: Glenormiston College. That has sort of been a shadow facility. Are there actually people enrolled and attending classes there?

Response:

Students are and have been enrolled in courses delivered at Glenormiston College, with the numbers steadily increasing from 2016, when its future was assured by the Andrews Government.

Under South West TAFE's blended training model, part of their training is delivered at their workplace address and part is delivered on campus.

COVID-19 restrictions put in place during 2020 has resulted in some impact on enrolments across Victorian training providers.

In 2019, 66 students were enrolled at Glenormiston College, with over 50 students enrolled in 2020.

Courses delivered during this period included:

- Certificate II in Agriculture
- Certificate II in Agriculture (Traineeship)
- Certificate III in Agriculture
- Certificate III in Agriculture (Traineeship)
- Certificate III in Agriculture (Dairy Production)
- Certificate III in Agriculture (Dairy Production) (Traineeship)
- Certificate IV in Agriculture
- Certificate IV in Agriculture (Traineeship)
- Diploma in Agriculture

H2.

Portfolio:	Training and Skills, Higher Education
Witness:	Hon. Gayle Tierney, MLC and Dr Simon Booth
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	p. 8

Mr D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Chair. Can I just go to the departmental questionnaire. Under new programs announced as part of the COVID-19 response it refers to a 'VET provider viability package' of \$744.456 million over two years. There is no reference I can see to this in the budget papers. I am just wondering how much funding is allocated in each of 2019–20 and 2020–21.

Response:

The \$744.456 million VET provider viability package is composed of \$260.894 million in funding allocated in the 2019-20 financial year and \$483.562 million in funding allocated to the 2020-21 financial year.

H3.

Portfolio:	Training and Skills, Higher Education
Witness:	Hon. Gayle Tierney, MLC and Ms Watts
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins MP
Page of transcript:	p. 12

Mr HIBBINS: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Minister and your team, for appearing before us this afternoon. I first want to just get some clarification over budget paper 3, page 179, and that is in regard to the numbers for adult, community and further education. Now, the target for 2021 is lower than the year 2019–20 actual. It is also lower than the 2018–19 actual as well. The reason given is that additional one-off government funding was committed after the initial target was set. What was this one-off funding for, and why has it not been continued? And does it also take into account the 2018–19 actual?

Response:

The Adult Community and Further Education Board (ACFEB) makes decisions about where to invest Adult Community and Further Education funds to best meet community needs. The ACFEB made a decision to re-prioritise resources from its overall budget into the delivery of pre-accredited training to meet increasing demand. This decision was made after the initial 2019-20 target was set.

Adult Community Education receives record funding from the Andrews Labor Government and I am incredibly proud of our commitment to the Learn Local sector. In addition to recurrent funding, the ACFE Board have received an additional \$1.25m in funding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for Learn Locals to transition teaching online.

The 2020-21 Budget has committed \$1.2 million to support an extra 1,000 Learn Local training places, so more Victorians can undertake essential core skills training. Further, an additional 3,000 places are also being rolled out in 2021 as part of our investment in literacy, numeracy and digital skills training.

H4.

Portfolio:	Training and Skills, Higher Education
Witness:	Hon. Gayle Tierney, MLC
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins MP
Page of transcript:	p. 12

Mr HIBBINS: Okay, thank you. Can we also get figures in terms of TAFE enrolment? Now, I understand there has been a decrease over the last year, if that was indicated before. Can we get separate figures for free TAFE courses and non-free TAFE courses as well?

Response:

There were 145,359 government subsidised course enrolments in the TAFE Network between January and November 2020 inclusive. This compares to 152,985 government subsidised course enrolments in the TAFE Network between January and November 2019 inclusive. Of the 145,359 government subsidised course enrolments in the TAFE Network between January and November 2020 inclusive:

- 57,972 were in courses on the 2020 Free TAFE course list; and
- the remaining 87,387 were in other qualifications.

H5.

Portfolio:	Training and Skills, Higher Education
Witness:	Hon. Gayle Tierney, MLC
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins MP
Page of transcript:	p. 12

Mr HIBBINS: Great. Thank you. Obviously there is the overall recurrent funding for TAFE and VET, but can we get a figure breakdown of the total allocation to free TAFE courses and then the total allocation to non-free TAFE courses?

Response:

The below table provides a breakdown of the total VET delivery allocation between Free TAFE and non-free TAFE courses for the 2020-21 financial year:

Total VET delivery budget for Free TAFE and non-Free TAFE courses, FY2020-21 (\$m)*

	Free TAFE (Fee waiver & incremental additional subsidies funding) (\$m)	non-Free TAFE (including pre-existing subsidy budget for Free TAFE students) (\$m)
Total VET delivery budget	173.8	814.6

***DET internal financial information as at end November 2020**