

Question on Notice

Portfolio:	Skills and TAFE
Witness:	Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Beverly McArthur
Page/s of transcript:	5

Relevant text:

Bev McARTHUR: Thank you, Chair. Minister, I note the table – this is in budget paper 3, page 59 – includes reference to a budget allocation of \$57.7 million in last year’s budget for 2023–24 for access to free TAFE output. Is that the missing \$58 million that Mr McGowan was asking about?

Lill HEALY: Mrs McArthur, thank you for the question. I am just going to respond on behalf of the Minister. I can take on notice the specific answer to your question. But as I said earlier, the allocation in a sense between the years has been a matter for rephrasing from Treasury, so let me take that on notice and we will come back to you on that one.

Bev McARTHUR: Okay. That is very good. And will you confirm that it is new money or not new money when you sort it out?

Lill HEALY: Thank you.

Answer:

The \$57.7 million in 2023-24 is new funding included as part of the *2024-25 Budget* for the ‘Boosting access to Free TAFE and training services’ initiative to meet higher than forecast training activity in the first half of the 2024 training year.

It is not uncommon for funding to be provided in the current financial year (i.e. 2023-24), which is evident in the *2024-25 Budget, Budget Paper 3* across many Victorian Government departments including the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

There is not a \$58 million funding discrepancy between the 2024-25 Budget, Budget Paper 3 (p.59) and the \$555 million (rounded) headline figure quoted as seen in the table below.

Initiative	2023-24 (\$m)	2024-25 (\$m)	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Boosting access to Free TAFE and training services	57.7	131.4	205.2			394.3
Modernising TAFE to support teachers		4.6				4.6
More apprenticeships for workforce priorities		11.4				11.4
Retraining for high-priority industries		15.8	15.8			31.6
TAFE Services Fund		82.6	30.1			112.7
Total output initiatives	57.7	245.7	251.1	0.0	0.0	554.5