

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

1. Enrolments

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Secretary Ms. Jenny Atta
Committee member:	The Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	5

Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: So how many enrolments would that \$20 million have supported?

Ms ATTA: Just bear with me, Mr O'Brien. I will see if I have got that detail. We might have to take that on notice.

Mr D O'BRIEN: I am happy for you to take it on notice, and if I can get whether the entire \$20 million was for enrolments or if 80 per cent of it was for enrolments and some for support and other factors, that would be great.

Ms ATTA: Very happy to provide that.

Answer:

The additional \$20 million allocated for 2018-19 responds to, and addresses, the strong response from Free TAFE students to the new initiative. The additional funding will be used to ensure that the TAFE network can support students to choose the right training course, can successfully complete their training, and are assisted with work placements where this is part of their course. The additional \$20 million will support current and future Free TAFE students with the highest needs to access these services.

2. Completion rate

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Deputy Secretary Mr. Simon Hollingsworth
Committee member:	The Hon. Mr. Danny O’Brien MP
Page of transcript:	6

Relevant text:

Mr HOLLINGSWORTH: This is the two-year completion rate.

Mr D O’BRIEN: Yes. So what is the current rate? The target is 46.3.

Mr HOLLINGSWORTH: I do not have that in front of me, so I had better take that on notice.

Mr D O’BRIEN: If you could take that on notice, that would be great. And likewise, do you have the current completion rate by TAFE, adult community education and private providers—RTOs? You would also need to take that on notice.

Mr HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The performance measure *Two-year completion rate for non-apprentice commencements in government-subsidised Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications* was introduced in the 2019-20 Budget Output Performance Statement.

The expected outcome for 2018-19 is 46.3 per cent, with the breakdown for provider types shown in the table below. Note that the 2018-19 outcome for this measure corresponds to the proportion of enrolments that commenced in 2017 and were completed by the end of the 2018 calendar year.

Table 1 Two-year completion rate for non-apprentice commencements by provider type: 2018-19 expected outcome

Provider	Rate
TAFE Network	44.8%
Private	49.8%
ACE	40.7%

3. Advertising cost

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Secretary Ms. Jenny Atta
Committee member:	The Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	7

Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: Thank you. Secretary, there has been an extensive advertising campaign obviously for free TAFE. Can you give me the total cost, including the design, the creative and the ad buy for this campaign?

Ms ATTA: I am not sure that I have got that here, but I would be very happy to take it on notice.

Mr D O'BRIEN: If you could take that on notice—

Ms ATTA: As a breakdown of each?

Mr D O'BRIEN: Including what has actually been spent—

Ms ATTA: The breakdown of expenditure for the total campaign?

Mr D O'BRIEN: Yes. The advertising spend on it.

Ms ATTA: I am very happy to provide that.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Including what has been spent and what is proposed in the future.

Answer:

Please note that Free TAFE advertising was in market until June 30 2019 and as such final advertising figures are not yet available. Final figures, as per government requirements, will be provided in the Department of Education and Training 2018-19 annual report.

4. Enrolments in TAFE

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Secretary Ms. Jenny Atta
Committee member:	The Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	13

Relevant text:

Mr RIORDAN: First of all, we will take it on notice that we will get a figure as to why there will be a significant decrease in enrolments into the TAFE sector.

Answer:

There has been a deliberate move away from a system of high-volume, low-quality training, with discontinued use of poor quality providers and removal of low-value courses from the Government's Funded Course List. This shift has stabilised Victoria's VET system, and strengthened the link between training and workforce demand, particularly in the Government's priority areas.

The Department estimates an increase in enrolments in the TAFE sector from 2018 to 2019.

The actual outcomes for the 2018 calendar year and the target outcomes for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years for the BP3 measure *Number of government subsidised course enrolments in the TAFE Network* are as follows:

Budget reporting period	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20
Corresponding calendar year	2018	2018	2019
Measure	Actual	Target	Target
	139,177	142,600	145,000

5. Contestable funding

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Secretary Ms. Jenny Atta
Committee member:	The Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	16, 17

Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Okay then. On that basis we will move through to funding details. My questions are to the secretary. Secretary, in terms of the output summary 'Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development', I am just going to run through a couple of questions here, given time constraints, and have those on notice, please, if you could confirm taking them on notice.

What is the total amount of contestable funding in the 2018–19 budget, and what is the breakdown within that of TAFE, RTOs, ACE and other programs, if you could provide that detail on notice?

Ms ATTA: I am happy to take that query on notice and to provide whatever breakdown we can against that.

Ms VALLENCE: Thank you. The next one, which I am happy to have on notice is: what is the amount of the appropriation unspent in 2018–19 for Skills First? Can I take that on notice? Also, what is the intended use —

Answer:

The overall Training, Higher Education, Workforce Development and Skills output cost for the 2018-19 Budget is **\$2.4 billion** of which **\$1.3 billion** relates to *Skills First*. The *Skills First* program supports more people to undertake high quality training that leads to jobs, and includes payments to training providers for undertaking subsidised training, funding to support the TAFE network and targeted funding streams that promote workforce innovation and address specific issues such as thin markets in regional areas.

Of the \$1.3 billion in *Skills First* funding in the 2018-19 budget, the total amount of contestable funding for training activity is **\$995.1 million**.

Skills First is an entitlement-based and demand-driven training system. The Department does not set a budget for provider types because the amount of funding paid to each provider is driven by the market. No eligible student was denied access to government-supported training in 2018-19.

A reduction in enrolments in 2018-19 resulted from more rigorous contract allocation, targeting of training to Government priorities and substitution to university education. Consequently, in 2018-19, **\$114.2 million** of funding relating to *Skills First* initiatives will not be spent and has been re-phased to support:

- 'Responding to Victorian Jobs Growth with More Training' initiative (**\$82.7 million**) in 2019-20 and 2020-21
- an extension of the Apprenticeship Support Officer program (**\$4.7 million**) for 2019-20
- 'Victorian Big Build and Higher Apprenticeships' (**\$5.6 million**) for 2019-20
- 'Supporting Free TAFE implementation' (**\$21.2 million**) for 2019-20.

6. Output for the training, higher education and workforce development budget

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education, the Hon. Gayle Tierney MP
Committee member:	The Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	17

Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Okay. Thank you. The next one—again, perhaps on notice if you do not have it—is to you, Minister. The output for the training, higher education and workforce development budget is 2.449 billion. So—this is why this perhaps is on notice—based on our question on notice for question 1, the first question we asked, on the amount of contestable funding, what else is funded from this allocation, and can you please also take on notice the amounts by program or initiatives and departmental funding for this allocation?

Ms TIERNEY: Great. Thank you. So the \$2.4 billion output cost is mainly made up of the following: Skills First programs, \$1.2 billion; forecast revenues generated from TAFEs and Learn Local organisations, \$582 million; and various programs such as other non-training funding, corporate overheads carried forward and capital asset charge and depreciation is \$417 million. The Skills First budget is made up of three elements: payments for training activity—\$855 million has been estimated for payments for training activity. This includes—

Ms VALLENCE: Minister, thank you. Minister, I appreciate that you have the numbers there, but we would really like to get through a lot and we have been shortened today. So I will take those on notice—

Answer:

The 2019-20 output cost for the Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development portfolio is \$2,449.6 million, and is composed of:

- *Skills First* Base budget (\$1,193.8 million);
- TAFE 3rd Party (\$581.8 million);
- Youth transitions and ACFE education (\$39.8 million);
- Non-*Skills First* initiatives (\$217.3 million), and
- Other items (\$416.9 million).

7. Workforce Training Innovation Fund and Regional and Specialist Training Fund

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education, the Hon. Gayle Tierney MP
Committee member:	Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien
Page of transcript:	18

Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Thank you, and I really appreciate that, but if we could have those on notice, that would be great. Also, Minister, just on notice, regarding the Workforce Training Innovation Fund and Regional and Specialist Training Fund: for each of these three funds, how much has been committed to date and when do each of these funds conclude? I would just really appreciate that on notice, because we have had time shortened today in this section.

Answer:

Since commencement of the funds to the end of this financial year (June, 2019), the Workforce Training Innovation Fund has committed \$91.5 million and Regional and Specialist Training Fund has committed \$66.2 million.

Both funds are on-going.

8. Land previously occupied by TAFEs

Portfolio:	Training & Skills / Higher Education
Witness:	Secretary Ms. Jenny Atta
Committee member:	Hon. Mr. Danny O'Brien
Page of transcript:	18

Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: I beg your pardon, thank you. Secretary, in regards to land previously occupied by TAFEs—for this question, again, you could perhaps take it on notice—for all of the land previously occupied by TAFEs and government training institutions currently leased to third parties, could you please provide a list that includes the suburb of the land and the third party currently occupying the land. And also, for those pieces of land that were previously occupied by TAFE or government training institutions that are currently idle, if you could provide a list of that too.

Ms ATTA: I am happy to take that away and to see what records we have and provide them accordingly.

Answer:

The Department maintains records for Government-owned land used by TAFEs or dual-sector institutes. TAFEs and dual-sector institutes maintain their own records for land that they own and lease to third parties.

For Government-owned land previously occupied by TAFEs and dual-sector institutes, three properties are not substantially in use for education or training delivery, or community or government purposes:

- the former Bendigo Kangan Institute campus at Moreland: there is a partial lease on the site to the Moreland City Council,
- the former Bendigo Kangan Institute campus at Coburg: the Department is in active discussions about future usage of the site, and
- the former Federation University campus at Stawell: the Department is in active discussions about future usage of the site.