

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: MEETINGS WITH VICE-CHANCELLORS

## QUESTION 1, PAGE NO 4

**The CHAIR:** Just to interrupt you, because there's limited time, I agree with all of that, but we're not getting to the point of the academic teaching cuts. I'll go to some more specific questions for the Minister. Since 4 April 2023 how many meetings have you or your office held with each of the vice-chancellors at the public universities in New South Wales?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'll take on notice the specific number. I have met with all of them since I became Minister. I meet regularly with them. On regular occasions, I meet with the vice-chancellors as a collective group. I also meet with the vice-chancellors individually when I visit their universities. I'd have to take on notice the number of meetings, but I've certainly met with them all at one stage or another.

## ANSWER

I am advised:

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

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**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: UNIVERSITY JOB LOSSES****QUESTION 2, PAGE NO 5**

**The CHAIR:** No. Again, no-one has asked you that question. If we could come back to specifics, do you know how many jobs are at risk across the 10 public universities in New South Wales?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I might have to ask Mr Kurucz—

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** We will take it on notice, that specific figure.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We'll take the total figure on notice. I am aware, certainly, of a number of the universities that have spoken to me about this. Wollongong university has just made some comments today about their total number of jobs that they are losing.

**The CHAIR:** It's around 1,400. These are 1,400 individuals. It's a bit concerning that you're not aware of that—

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I think you might find that Wollongong's has gone down today from their original estimate.

**The CHAIR:** By how much?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** It's now around a hundred, as I understand it.

**The CHAIR:** From?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'll take on notice the actual numbers so that I'm not just plucking them out of my memory.

**ANSWER**

Please refer to the answer to supplementary question 64.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: UNIVERSITY COURSE OFFERINGS**

**QUESTION 3, PAGE NO 5**

**The CHAIR:** Do you have a current estimate of how many courses, majors or degrees have been cut or proposed to be cut in New South Wales universities since your Government has been in power?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** No, not off the top of my head. I'll have to take that on notice as well. But I'd also encourage you to ask the vice-chancellors this afternoon, when you have them in front of you.

**ANSWER**

Universities are self-accrediting, administratively independent institutions responsible for their own decisions on course structures and offerings. The Australian Government is responsible for funding and regulation in the higher education sector.

The NSW Government can not determine university operational matters.

Questions relating to adjustments to courses and majors should be directed to the individual universities.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BUDGET**

**QUESTION 4, PAGE NO 7**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Sure. The grants and contributions, which is in the revenue part of that same table on that page, there's about a \$150 million increase in that compared to last year. I'm just curious as to what the basis of that is. Where does that come from?

**CHLOE READ:** I do have notes on this somewhere. I might take that on notice. I have a suspicion, but until I find the note, I might take that on notice if that's okay.

**ANSWER**

The increase in grants and contributions reflects growth in capital funding and operational funding for TAFE NSW as part of the 2025-2026 Budget.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BUDGET****QUESTION 5, PAGE NO 7-8**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** We might come back to that then maybe. Yes, of course, that's fine. Again, this is very detailed but I wanted to also ask about—it's on the next page, so 6-12, of those Agency Financial Statements—the plant and equipment funding allocation. This is from the previous year's budget. I think the budget allocation was \$231.7 million but then the revised budget ended up being 129.5. I just wondered why I guess the underspend in that particular part of the budget papers.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes. I think some of that relates to re-phasing of the manufacturing centres of excellence, but I can come back—

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Can you explain what that means in layperson's terms, sorry.

**CHLOE READ:** It means that we worked with the Commonwealth on joint funding for the manufacturing centres of excellence, and for one of them it just took us a bit longer, I think, on getting that agreement in place, and so the construction moved slightly in terms of which financial year it would fall into. I don't think that explains a hole, but I could take on notice the full extent of that difference if you like.

**ANSWER**

The movement in FY25 primarily reflects the treatment of expenditure for the Asset Renewal Program and carry forwards for the Manufacturing Centres of Excellence.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BUDGET****QUESTION 6, PAGE NO 8**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That would be great, thank you. I also wanted to ask about the capital expenditure. Again, the budgeted expenditure for 2024-2025 was \$300.6 million, but then, again, that was revised down to \$217 million, and I'm just wondering why.

**CHLOE READ:** Sorry, tell me which—

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Last year's budget papers, the budgeted capital expenditure—that's from the Infrastructure Statement budget papers. Sorry, I should have mentioned that. That's table 6.1.

**CHLOE READ:** Sorry, what page are you on?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Let me find it. I have a photocopy here and I don't have my normal one. Give me one second. Sorry, I am confused. The Agency Financial Statements, I'm back to that one—6.1— sorry. Table 6.1 is where it lists all the different agencies obviously under Education and then under TAFE. The capital expenditure, the revised budget there says \$217 million but in last year's budget papers the allocation for that amount was 300.6, and so it appears that there's an \$80-odd million less spend.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We'll take that on notice. I suspect that it's more about delivery time frames for some of the projects.

**CHLOE READ:** Oh, sorry, we're in the agency summary. I think that's the same thing. I think that's the same difference that you can see in the detail of ours in the rollout—

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** But is that for the centres of excellence? Is that what you're saying?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** In part.

**CHLOE READ:** In part. Let's take it on notice.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** As I probably said last year, a lot of the capital was about maintenance across a very large range of sites last year, so I suspect that we've got a few different little bits in that. But we'll come back to you on that.

**ANSWER:**

The variance between budget and estimated actual expenditure for 2024-2025 reflects changes to the timing of planned capital programs.

This includes the Manufacturing Centres of Excellence, where the timing of capital works was changed to ensure it not disrupt other classes due to the program modifying existing buildings.

It also includes the Coffs Harbour optimisation project, where funding from 2024-25 was moved into future years due to the second phase requiring additional planning and statutory approvals.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: COFFS HARBOUR OPTIMISATION PROJECT****QUESTION 7, PAGE NO 8**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Can I ask about a couple of more specific ones. The Coffs Harbour Optimisation Project, again, I think last year's budget papers had a completion date of 2025 and I think that has now been pushed out to 2027. Can you just talk me through why that is for that particular project?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'll ask TAFE to address that. I've been to Coffs Harbour TAFE and seen some of the work that has been going on. There was some substantial work that has been happening there, but I'll ask TAFE to elaborate on the completion date.

**CHLOE READ:** For Coffs Harbour, I have "completed new and refurbished facilities to relocate creative services, Adult Migrant English Program and business courses from Glenreagh Street to Coffs Harbour", so it may be that there's a second phase. But certainly the expected delivery in FY24-25 from my notes was completed. I might just take on notice. It's probably a phase thing.

**ANSWER**

The Coffs Harbour Optimisation Project is a multi-year initiative.

In 2024-25, TAFE NSW completed a number of associated activities including:

- The completion of new facilities in Building V for the delivery of Creative Design Ideation, Career Pathways, and Aboriginal Languages and Employability Skills including the Adult Migrant English Program.
- The refurbishment of Building O to provide modern, open-plan staff accommodation with increased capacity and dedicated quiet/meeting spaces.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: TAFE NSW CAPITAL WORKS

## QUESTION 8, PAGE NO 9

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I appreciate that. I'm happy for you to take this on notice, but of the 129 campuses that were called out in that media release, can you provide, on notice, a list of all the campuses that that work is going to be undertaken on, if possible?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We will take that on notice.

**CHLOE READ:** There might just be some places where some of it is maintenance that might crop up during the year, so we might just need to flag where—

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** If you can provide what you can, on notice, that would be great.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, totally.

## ANSWER

The 129 sites identified referred to in the media release are those where capital works were undertaken in 2024-25. These locations are as follows:

Albury, Armidale - Beardy Street, Armidale - Taylor Street, Ballina, Bathurst, Baulkham Hills, Belmont, Blacktown, Boggabilla, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill - Argent Street, Broken Hill - Kaolin Street, Campbelltown, Casino, Castle Hill, Cessnock, CHEC, Cobar, Condobolin, Cooma, Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Cootamundra, Cowora, Cowra, Dubbo - Mitchell Highway, Dubbo - Myall Street, Dunedoo, Enmore, Eora, Finlay, Forbes - Browne Street, Gilgandra, Glen Innes, Glendale, Gosford, Goulburn - View Street, Grafton, Granville, Grenfell, Griffith, Gunnedah, Gymea, Hamilton, Hay, Haymarket, Hornsby, Ingleburn, Inverell, Kempsey, Katoomba, Kingscliff, Kingswood, Kogarah - President Avenue, Kurri Kurri, Lake Cargelligo, Lidcombe, Lightning Ridge, Lismore, Lithgow, Liverpool, Liverpool Building M, Loftus, Macksville, Macquarie Fields, Maitland - New England Highway, Meadowbank, Menindee - Haberfield Street, Miller, Moree - Frome Street, Moree - Newell Highway, Comealla, Moruya, Moss Vale, Mount Druitt, Mudgee - Ulan Road, Muswellbrook - Maitland Street, Narrabri - Barwan Street, Narrandera, Newcastle West, Nirimba, Northern Beaches, Nowra, Nyngan, Orange - Ansell St, Orange - Forest Rd, Ourimbah, Padstow, Parkes, Penrith, Petersham, Port Macquarie - Widderson Street, Queanbeyan, Randwick, Richmond, Ryde, Scone, Shellharbour, Singleton, St Leonards, Strathfield, Tamworth - Airport, Tamworth - Janison Street, Taree, Temora, Tenterfield, Thurgoona, Tighes Hill, Tumut, Tuncurry, Ulladulla, Ultimo, Wagga Wagga, Wagga Wagga Primary Industries Centre, Walgett, Warren, Wauchope, Wellington, Wentworth Falls, Wetherill Park, Wilcannia, Wollongbar, Wollongong - Lysaght Street, Wollongong - Rawlinson Avenue, Wyong, Yallah, Yass, Young.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: DIGITAL ACCESS FOUNDATION PROGRAM****QUESTION 9, PAGE NO 9-10**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I just wanted to touch again on—you mentioned it before—some of the issues around the technology issues and upgrades in terms of IT and things. I don't know if it was yourself, Minister, but I think last time we talked about a digital disadvantage for some of those campuses. Again, how many are you going to do the IT upgrades on this year? Where are you at in terms of the cycle of making sure that as many campuses as possible have the digital that they need?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** A decent standard of wi-fi, for example, yes.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** But that they have what they need in terms of that digital capability.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We will take on notice the full list for you, but obviously we've worked through a large range of campuses that didn't have decent wi-fi access. We've also been investing in new equipment into many areas—so laptops and so on for students and staff in many of the campuses as well. There has been quite a strong investment in many of those areas. I was at the Wagga TAFE's primary industries section the other day. When I first went there last year, their wi-fi system wasn't capable, for instance, of running the—they deliver training for all the tractor manufacturers, and they need to be able to access all of those manufacturers' diagnostic systems. Their system, at the time, wasn't capable of doing that, so we've prioritised that campus. That's had an upgrade in that area. We are trying to prioritise through—the job's not done yet, but we continue to work through.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** You might have said it before but, for instance, in this financial year, how many campuses are slated to have a wi-fi upgrade?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We'll provide you with that.

**CHLOE READ:** I'll come back on that. There will be two figures in that. One will be the wi-fi and the network infrastructure piece, but then also last year we replaced about 5,000 educational and staff devices—so computers either in computer labs or laptops that can be hired. That's a rolling thing because obviously once you get to the end, the ones you rolled out four years ago will need to be replaced. But we will give you a sense, if we can, on that too.

**ANSWER**

As part of TAFE NSW's Digital Access Foundation program, 69 campuses have had network and Wi-Fi upgrades since 2023.

A further 10 campuses are planned to receive upgrades in 2025-26.

The Digital Access Foundation program also replaces digital devices to support staff and students. In 2024/25, 5,000 devices were upgraded.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: DIGITAL ACCESS FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

**QUESTION 10, PAGE NO 10**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Is there an end date for when you want all campuses—it's particularly wi-fi that I'm more interested in—to be up to scratch?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Ms Read, do you want to comment on that?

**CHLOE READ:** I think the program is due to be completed in the next two financial years, but I'll confirm that and come back to you if that's not correct.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW is working to determine when the Digital Access Foundation will be able to complete upgrade of network and wi-fi across remaining campuses. It is conducting site assessments of the remaining campuses to support forward planning.

Ongoing review of TAFE NSW's digital needs and further upgrades and maintenance will be required, as technology evolves.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 11, PAGE NO 16**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Who did the market valuation for you or your office, Minister?

**CHLOE READ:** It would've been for TAFE. I've just got that it was an independent valuation. I can certainly find out and take it on notice.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We can take on notice who undertook it.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** If you can take it on notice, I'd like to know who it was. Hopefully they visited the site.

**ANSWER**

CBRE Incorporated undertook the independent market valuation for TAFE NSW.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: MILPERRA CAMPUS - LAND

## QUESTION 12, PAGE NO 16

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Yes, but I asked you at the time—you might recall—you said it was all commercial in confidence. You provided that answer. Are you aware of the sale price of the land previously owned by the university at Milperra? Do you know what that sale price is, Minister?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I will ask Mr Kurucz to add to that. It's my understanding that the role we have in land is, where there has been land provided to a university at a lower than market rate—in other words, \$1 land—in that case, the Minister then has to approve the sale of that land. That Milperra site all occurred before I was Minister, is my memory, but I'll ask Mr Kurucz if he could elaborate on that.

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I'll take that on notice in relation to the specific example you've raised, Ms Mihailuk.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** So you don't know if at any point the university offered to the New South Wales Government to gift Milperra land, that it was actually gifted? Because it was actually gifted in 1997 by the New South Wales Government then. I'm just wondering, did they give it back to the taxpayer?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I don't have that specific information in front of me in relation to that particular piece of land, so I'll take that on notice.

## ANSWER

Western Sydney University and other NSW public universities are not-for-profit. Any net proceeds from the sale of university land are reinvested by the university back into its core functions, which are listed in its Act. No details of any sale of the land that was previously the Milperra Campus of Western Sydney University, have been made available.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW TEACHERS**

**QUESTION 13, PAGE NO 18**

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I think what you're saying is: Are we offering more? The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: You can say it's wonderful there are 400 more teachers, but what does that mean in practice?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Are we offering more? Yes.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** What's the net increase in delivery hours? I guess that would be another way to phrase it.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** That's quite specific. I would have to take that on notice. Because it obviously depends on demand and where we've got people doing courses and those sort of things. There's quite a lot of different factors in that.

**ANSWER**

The estimated net increase in delivery hours due to the increase in full-time equivalent (FTE) TAFE NSW teachers from 2022-2025 is 282,240 per annum.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW HEADCOUNT**

**QUESTION 14, PAGE NO 19**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** What's been the overall change in headcount from 2022, or even from this year to last year?

**CHLOE READ:** I might take that on notice for the 2022 piece. You're talking headcount across everyone?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Yes, for the last couple of years.

**CHLOE READ:** I might take that on notice.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That's fine. Does anyone move to a contract-based employment?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We have a figure of 1,426 increase in full-time equivalent staff between 2022 and 2024.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** If you could provide the breakdown of that on notice, that would be great. Do you have contract-based employment?

**CHLOE READ:** Do you mean a fixed term, like a two-year?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Yes.

**ANSWER**

The number of full time equivalent (FTE) TAFE NSW employees since 2022 is available at the TAFE NSW Annual Report 2023-2024. This includes a breakdown of teaching staff by employment type.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: PAID TO LEARN

## QUESTION 15, PAGE NO 20

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Back quickly to Paid to Learn, which you just mentioned as well, Ms Tickle. When we were here in March we were talking about another tranche of those positions in Broken Hill. I think Wagga was another area. You gave me the overall figures, but do you have a breakdown of where those positions are?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, I met with cohort seven, who have just started Paid to Learn in the last couple of weeks. They're spread all across the State, so we've got Albury, Ballina, Bankstown, Broken Hill, Cessnock and Kurri. In fact, I think we talked last time about Kurri Kurri and the mobile plant and heavy vehicles. There were two people; I was sitting at a table with them, and I said, "I've spoken about you."

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** There you go. How lucky they were a part of that. I'm surprised they weren't watching when we talked about it.

**CHLOE READ:** Leeton, Lidcombe, Meadowbank, Moss Vale, Newcastle, North Wollongong, Northern Beaches, Orange, Wagga, Shellharbour, Sutherland, Taree, Ultimo and Wetherill Park. There's a mix there across things like fitting and machining, heavy vehicles, electrical, community services, maritime, and ageing and disability.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Shearing.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That's very important.

**CHLOE READ:** Shearing, yes. Conservation and land management. So, yes, a good mix there across really critical skill areas. It was just fantastic to talk to those people who want to be teachers and how excited they are. Some of them were nervous about whether they would be able to do it. All of that kind of promise of becoming a teacher at TAFE. It was really great to meet with them.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I'm happy for it to be on notice, but maybe a breakdown of the locations.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** For the total numbers?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Yes, just where they all are. It would be interesting to have that.

**CHLOE READ:** We actually had two cohorts this year. Cohort six was earlier in the year. We could definitely give you both on notice. Again, it's a broad range across the State and a whole range of different things. There's a bit more plumbing in the last one and motorbikes, that sort of thing.

## ANSWER:

The TAFE NSW locations that have a Paid to Learn teacher, and the number of Paid to Learn teachers at each, is as follows:

| TAFE NSW Location | Number of Paid to Learn Teachers |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Albury            | 9                                |
| Ballina           | 1                                |
| Bankstown         | 2                                |
| Bathurst          | 2                                |
| Broken Hill       | 5                                |
| Campbelltown      | 5                                |

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Cessnock         | 2  |
| Coffs Harbour    | 4  |
| Dubbo            | 10 |
| Enmore           | 1  |
| Eora             | 5  |
| Glendale         | 7  |
| Gosford          | 2  |
| Grafton          | 2  |
| Granville        | 15 |
| Griffith         | 1  |
| Gunnedah         | 1  |
| GyMEA            | 3  |
| Hornsby          | 4  |
| Inverell         | 1  |
| Kingscliff       | 1  |
| Kingswood        | 4  |
| Kurri Kurri      | 9  |
| Leeton           | 2  |
| Lidcombe         | 11 |
| Lithgow          | 1  |
| Loftus           | 2  |
| Macquarie Fields | 3  |
| Maitland         | 4  |
| Meadowbank       | 11 |
| Miller           | 11 |
| Moss Vale        | 2  |
| Mount Druitt     | 13 |
| Mudgee           | 4  |
| Muswellbrook     | 3  |
| Newcastle        | 16 |
| Nirimba          | 5  |
| Northern Beaches | 5  |
| Nowra            | 2  |
| Orange           | 15 |
| Ourimbah         | 4  |
| Padstow          | 4  |
| Petersham        | 1  |
| Port Macquarie   | 1  |
| Randwick         | 4  |
| Richmond         | 2  |
| Ryde             | 4  |
| Shellharbour     | 2  |
| St George        | 7  |
| St Leonards      | 1  |
| Strathfield      | 5  |

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Sutherland     | 3  |
| Tamworth       | 10 |
| Taree          | 1  |
| Tumut          | 2  |
| Ultimo         | 26 |
| Wagga Wagga    | 10 |
| Walgett        | 1  |
| Wauchope       | 2  |
| Wetherill Park | 10 |
| Wollongbar     | 10 |
| Wollongong     | 11 |
| Wyong          | 3  |
| Yallah         | 1  |
| Young          | 1  |

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: HSC-RELATED COURSES****QUESTION 16, PAGE NO 23-24**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** In terms of the change to the course delivery of the HSC face to face, I appreciate that the availability can be reliant on the enrolment numbers. Maybe on notice, would we might be able to get a list of where the HSC face to face is currently available—at what TAFE campuses in New South Wales?

**CHLOE READ:** The HSC or the tertiary—

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** The high school equivalent or tertiary—there are a few different courses in that. We'll take on notice—

**CHLOE READ:** I understand what you're looking for.

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** The high school level face to face—yes. Happy to elaborate.

**CHLOE READ:** Why don't we take that on notice and get you the high school level tertiary preparation-type courses?

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** Where they are currently available at campuses in New South Wales, reflecting there have been changes.

**CHLOE READ:** I'd be happy to.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW is delivering HSC equivalent courses including the Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation, Certificate III in Pathways to Further Study and TAFE Statement in HSC Studies, at the following locations in Semester 2 2025:

Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Bega, Belmont, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Bradfield Senior College, Campbelltown, Cessnock, Coffs Harbour Education Campus, Cooma, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Glendale, Gosford, Goulburn, Granville, Griffith, Kingscliff, Leeton, Lithgow, Liverpool, Maitland, Moruya, Moss Vale, Murwillumbah, Nepean, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, Randwick, Shellharbour, St Leonards, Sutherland, Tamworth, Taree, Tumut, Ultimo, Wagga Wagga, Western Connect, Wollongbar, Wollongong, Wyong, Yass, Young.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: TAFE NSW CAPITAL WORKS

## QUESTION 17, PAGE NO 30-31

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** Minister, if I could refer you to Budget Paper No. 03, which was referred to earlier. At 4-32, under "TAFE Commission", "Major Works" and "New Works", the second line under "New Works" is "TAFE NSW Bankstown Campus Relocation", which is \$100 million. Minister, in recognition of the population growth in the south-west of Sydney, what has been allocated in terms of new works to the Miller campus in the city of Liverpool, or the Liverpool campus itself in Liverpool?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Obviously that \$100 million is a specific line item. We've got quite a long list of campuses that are getting upgrades or where maintenance work is being undertaken. We can delve into that a little bit more. There has been quite a bit of discussion around Liverpool, is my understanding, but I might ask Ms Read to—

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** The reference was to new money, "New Works" in this budget. I see Bankstown listed.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Like I said, obviously within line items in the budget there's quite a long list of capital works that are going on in campuses across New South Wales, building on what we did last year and the budget before. Perhaps Ms Read could elaborate on that.

**CHLOE READ:** I think I'll need to take on notice the specifics, and I think we already took on notice to come back with the list of campuses and works that we would be planning to do on them. For those specific campuses of Miller and Liverpool, I'm happy to come back on notice on that.

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** In terms of the city of Campbelltown campus, either Macquarie Fields or Campbelltown itself, do we know anything there? New money, "New Works"—there's big population growth.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Yes, there is.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes. We certainly have an expansion of electrotechnology at Campbelltown as one of the projects on the cards, but I think it would be better for me to come back with all of those together.

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** Would it be anything at the level of new money for Bankstown? I appreciate the circumstances there.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** No, because the Bankstown one is, as I say, the circumstances of relocating the whole TAFE. That is a substantial investment being undertaken there.

**CHLOE READ:** I might also say that, just on those campuses particularly, they are big campuses. They have strong enrolments, as you've called out, and obviously they are areas of population growth. They are also campuses where we do have often underutilised space, so that's one of the reasons for the Padstow campus move as part of the Bankstown relocation. We may not need that kind of significant building-level investment in those campuses to be able to more fully utilise them. We might need smaller investments to make sure there's wi-fi, to make sure facilities are upgraded and to make sure there's additional access to particular types of facilities. I'm really happy to come back on those on notice.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**ANSWER**

In 2025-26, as part of the Minns Labor Government's record investment in TAFE, TAFE NSW has allocated over \$17 million to campus upgrades in South-West Sydney including Miller, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Macquarie Fields, and Wetherill Park campuses, in addition to the allocation to the Padstow and Bankstown campuses as per the response to Supplementary Question 1.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW NORTHERN BEACHES****QUESTION 18, PAGE NO 34**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** Back on TAFE campuses, if I could look at the Northern Beaches TAFE campus and some of the changes that are taking place there. Minister, do we know what percentage of the buildings at that campus are being used, in terms of occupancy and utilisation?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Firstly, can I say that I was due to visit the Northern Beaches TAFE campus a week or so ago, but, unfortunately, the local member was ill and wasn't able to come, so I postponed that. I am looking forward to visiting the Northern Beaches TAFE campus and hearing from staff there. I'll have to ask about percentage. I haven't been to the campus yet, so I haven't seen what the utilisation is myself. But I'll ask Ms Read to talk about the utilisation of current campus buildings.

**CHLOE READ:** I don't have that information with me today, so I'll take it on notice specifically for that campus. I would say that it's often difficult for us to give a utilisation figure because it obviously depends on the profile of students. You can do many of our courses online or in person, so those utilisation figures aren't something that we have broadly. But we might have specific information, and I'm really happy to take that on notice and come back to you if we do.

**ANSWER**

In calendar year 2024 Northern Beaches campus had over 5,000 enrolments. The delivery mode for all courses was face-to-face or blended.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: ELECTROTECHNOLOGY COURSES

## QUESTION 19, PAGE NO 36

**The CHAIR:** We might come back to that this afternoon. Minister, are you able to tell me how much your Government has increased recurrent funding to electrical training specifically, not just TAFE generally?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'd have to take that on notice. Obviously most of the people who come into electrical training are doing apprenticeships and it's an uncapped amount, so we essentially fund everybody who comes in as an apprentice to electrical training. We'd like more. There's been some recent incorrect reports around availability of electrical training, particularly in this semester. There were 25 TAFE campuses offering enrolments in electrotechnology for second semester this year which some media reports just had wrong. We don't have waiting lists in the area. As I say, our restrictions are often about the number of teachers that we have. That's why we've been actively working in that area to increase the number of teachers. I'll ask Ms Read to elaborate on that.

**CHLOE READ:** What we could do, if you're looking for specific budget increase pieces, would be to give you information on where we've upgraded facilities, where we've trained teachers through Paid to Learn or other mechanisms, and then the department would be able to say the funding that's come through either apprenticeships and traineeships or other qualifications, specifically for things in that industry area. We'd have to piece it together for you.

## ANSWER

TAFE NSW is actively working to meet industry demand for electrical training through a number of initiatives. These include:

- The Paid to Learn program, a 14-week pathway that equips industry professionals with the skills to become qualified TAFE NSW teachers, while earning a wage. Over 300 graduates from the program are currently teaching at TAFE NSW, boosting teacher resources in high demand courses. Over 24% of these graduates are now teaching Electrotechnology.
- The establishment of the Institute of Applied Technology- Construction at Kingswood which has provided new facilities for trades including increased electrotechnology capacity.
- Minor works projects have been completed at Port Macquarie, Orange and Singleton to modernise and increase capacity for Electrotechnology.

In the 2025/26 NSW Budget the Minns Labor Government committed an additional \$40.2 million over two years towards fee free apprenticeships and traineeships which provide people with access to free training for jobs including electrotechnology.

NSW Government funding for apprenticeships and traineeships, including for apprenticeships in the Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician, is demand driven and uncapped.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: RENEWABLE ENERGY COURSES**

**QUESTION 20, PAGE NO 36**

**The CHAIR:** Can you tell me how many TAFEs in each of the renewable energy zones currently have renewable energy units in scope for electrical apprenticeships?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** We might—

**CHLOE READ:** Take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW has several renewable energy units on its scope of registration. They are currently delivered as part of post-trade Statements of Attainment.

These units are eligible for delivery at the following TAFE NSW campuses located within or near a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ):

Dubbo, Mudgee, Belmont, Glendale, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Wollongong, Bathurst, Orange, Lithgow, Tamworth, Wyong, Moss Vale, Nowra, Sutherland, Grafton, Port Macquarie, Albury, Leeton, Wagga Wagga.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: RENEWABLE ENERGY COURSES

## QUESTION 21, PAGE NO 37

**The CHAIR:** I have two specific questions off the back of that. The first one is: How many TAFE campuses currently offer a cert IV in electrical renewable energy? My understanding is there aren't any.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** My figures that I've got here are for cert III in electrotechnology. I'll have to pass over to TAFE and perhaps take that on notice.

**The CHAIR:** Are there any cert IVs?

**CHLOE READ:** I'm going to need to take it on notice.

**The CHAIR:** Looking at the website, it looked like there weren't any, so if you could come back on that— even this afternoon—that would be good. The other one is: I understand that some of the cert IIIs in electrotechnology enrolments have been suspended at some of the campuses. Are there any campuses that have suspended that cert III?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Do you mean in terms of availability of enrolments?

**The CHAIR:** Yes, that they're just not offering it.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** As I said, 25 locations where the course is being offered—there was only one which was full. The only areas where they wouldn't be running, where they may have had courses previously where they wouldn't be, is if demand was too low. I have had reports that there's some areas where there wasn't demand for the course, so it didn't happen. But perhaps Ms Read can—

**CHLOE READ:** Again, what we would do in that case is, if we have a couple of people coming who really want to do it, we would be looking to find them an alternate enrolment, either at a nearby campus or through some other mechanism of delivery. We can do things—for example, in some of the trades where you do the theory part at your local campus and then you do block release where you come and do the more practical things in a campus that's maybe further away to make that practical for you to do that on a weekly basis. As I said, if you want to give me the locations, I'm very happy to go away and investigate that further.

## ANSWER

TAFE NSW does not offer the Certificate IV in Electrical – Renewable Energy.

Registered Training Organisations approved to deliver and/or assess this qualification are listed at <https://training.gov.au/training/details/UEE43322/rto>.

TAFE NSW regularly reviews and assesses the demand for courses and strives to align them with the needs of industry and local communities. Should there be sufficient interest and demonstrated industry need, TAFE NSW would consider adding the Certificate IV in Electrical – Renewable Energy to its scope of registration.

In Semester 2 2025, TAFE is currently delivering the Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician at 25 campuses.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: ELECTRICAL APPRENTICES - WAIT TIMES****QUESTION 22, PAGE NO 37-38**

**The CHAIR:** Do you keep a record of that in terms of apprentices who are on the job but haven't done any training?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** That would probably be a question for Mr Kurucz to answer, because TAFE is obviously not the only deliverer of the apprenticeships in New South Wales either.

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I don't have any specific information with me at the moment. Ms Lawrence might want to add to it.

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** We might be able to find that information for you and take it on notice.

**The CHAIR:** That would be good—if you could come back this afternoon, if at all possible. I'm interested in what percentage of electrical apprentices have to wait six months or 12 months or longer due to capacity constraints. That's what I'm trying to get a handle on. You mentioned the ETU, Minister. Their survey found that 13 per cent of all apprentices have received an electrical shock during their apprenticeship, doubling to 25 per cent if they're behind on their training. They do have real concerns that there's a number of these apprentices on the job that haven't begun their training.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'd be concerned as well. The information I have is that we've had the starting times available and that we don't have waiting lists in electrotechnology at the moment.

**The CHAIR:** Maybe bring back some more information this afternoon if you have it.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, we'll go and have a look at those campuses and take it on notice.

**ANSWER**

The number of registered and approved apprentices in the Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician qualification who have not commenced formal off-the-job training is as follows:

- At 6 months after contract approval, 3% of apprentices.
- At 12 months after contract approval, 1.8% of apprentices.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: ELECTRICAL TRADES TEACHERS**

**QUESTION 23, PAGE NO 38**

**The CHAIR:** How many qualified electrical trade teachers does TAFE currently employ?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'll ask Ms Read to answer that or take it on notice.

**CHLOE READ:** We'll take that on notice too.

**The CHAIR:** If you can provide a comparison of how many there are now compared to, say, five or 10 years ago, some sort of analysis, that would be great.

**CHLOE READ:** Intuitively, I feel that five years ago, yes; and 10 years ago, I'll come back to you on whether we have that information.

**ANSWER**

As of 30 June 2025, TAFE NSW employed approximately 300 teachers (headcount) of Electrical Trades/Electrotechnology/Electrical Engineering. This compares to approximately 240 as of 30 June 2020. Due to changes in reporting and systems, TAFE NSW does not have data from 2015 readily available.

Another nine Electrical Trades teachers are currently undergoing training through the Paid to Learn program and will be ready to start teaching at the beginning of 2026.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: SERIOUS MISCONDUCT AND SERIOUS WRONGDOING**

**QUESTION 24, PAGE NO 38**

**The CHAIR:** In the time I've got left, according to answers given in supplementary questions in March 2025, as at the end of last year TAFE had 22 open, ongoing investigations into allegations of serious wrongdoing or serious misconduct. Can you let me know how many are currently open and what the threshold is for serious wrongdoing or serious misconduct?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'll ask Ms Read or Ms Tickle to answer that one.

**JULIE TICKLE:** In the financial year just gone, we had 100 new matters involving serious wrongdoing or misconduct, with 21 of those still ongoing. I would need to take on notice the specific question you asked, which I think is the comparison for the age ones—the 22 versus now.

**The CHAIR:** Sorry, the other bit of my question was what is defined as serious wrongdoing or serious misconduct?

**JULIE TICKLE:** I'll take that on notice for accuracy. As you would know, it's a really complex space. There are a lot of factors that go into each of the matters. I'll take it on notice and provide a definition.

**ANSWER**

Of the 22 investigations into Serious Misconduct and Serious Wrongdoing that were open as of 31 December 2024 and reported in March 2025, 3 investigations remain ongoing.

Serious Misconduct is defined by Regulation 1.07 of the Fair Work Act Regulations 2009.

Serious Wrongdoing (which may also constitute Serious Misconduct) is defined by section 13 of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2022.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: MOSS VALE TAFE**

**QUESTION 25, PAGE NO 38**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I want to go back to the Moss Vale TAFE high school equivalents that my colleague Ms Merton was asking about earlier in relation to whether or not teaching hours at Goulburn TAFE were modified or changed in any way to allow for the delivery of that blended model that you spoke about.

**CHLOE READ:** I will take that on notice. As I said earlier, the students opted for online delivery via TAFE Digital and then support on campus, but I need to work out whether that has specifics on Goulburn—

**ANSWER**

No teaching hours were required to change at TAFE NSW Goulburn.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW QUEANBEYAN**

**QUESTION 26, PAGE NO 39**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** You mentioned Queanbeyan before, Minister, in terms of the courses that are being offered. You said that sometimes it looks quite empty, but you're assuring the Committee that the campus is being utilised.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** It's being used.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** My understanding is that there are seven courses on offer on campus. Are you able to tell me if that's correct?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I'll get a clarification of that. I haven't seen any changes. I'm aware that they do a range—beauty, bricklaying and a number of English programs. They do some of the high school equivalents.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Did you have a beauty treatment while you were there, or not that time?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** No, I haven't.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Maybe next time.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** They've offered me all sorts of things. The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I'm sure they do.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** As you'd probably be aware, a lot of the people who do trades training in our Canberra region go across to the CIT in Canberra to do that. The New South Wales Government helps the ACT pay for that. My son-in-law, for example, did his trades training across the border in the ACT. The CIT probably performs a lot of that role for Queanbeyan, but I'll come back to you about whether the number has changed at all.

**ANSWER**

17 courses were offered at Queanbeyan campus in 2025.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

**QUESTION 27, PAGE NO 43**

**The CHAIR:** Within TAFE, how many public interest disclosure investigations are currently underway?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I will ask Ms Read or Ms Tickle.

**JULIE TICKLE:** In the financial year 2025, 48 public interest disclosure reports were received and classified as PIDs; 29 additional reports were received but not classified as PIDs. That's in the financial year 2025. From then to now, I'd have to take on notice what the current open number is.

**ANSWER**

As of 11 September 2025, there are currently 19 open investigations underway.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: ELECTROTECHNOLOGY COURSES**

**QUESTION 28, PAGE NO 43**

**The CHAIR:** I might come back to some of those this afternoon. When I was asking before about availability of courses, I think, Minister, you said there were 25 that offered—

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Twenty-five campuses that offered it.

**The CHAIR:** Twenty-five campuses offered that course, but that's out of, what, 130?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** There are 154 campuses across the State, some of which are connected learning centres.

**The CHAIR:** Has that number of campuses that it's available at increased or decreased over time?

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** Obviously there's some specific technology that is needed in those campuses. I'll get Ms Read. If we can't answer it, we'll take it on notice.

**CHLOE READ:** I would say we've got good growth in the number of enrolments in electrotech type areas, but I'd need to take on notice the specifics of change over time and in particular did we offer it in one place that we—

**The CHAIR:** And whether they're in-person or online as well, if there's a comparison.

**ANSWER**

The number of campus locations where the Certificate III in electrotechnology has been delivered between 2023 and 2025 has remained stable.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TRAINING AGREEMENTS**

**QUESTION 29, PAGE NO 43**

**The CHAIR:** That would be useful. From the research I've been able to do, TAFE looks like it has partnerships, collaborations or program interactions at least with a number of weapons manufacturing companies, including Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Boeing and some others. Do you have a full list of the weapons— Thales, that's the other one. Are there any weapons companies that TAFE works with? Mr

**STEVE WHAN:** I'll have to ask Ms Read to take that on notice.

**CHLOE READ:** I'll take it on notice.

**Mr STEVE WHAN:** I think in the aviation sector we obviously have collaborations, because that is a focus for some of our TAFE campuses in terms of aviation and also advanced manufacturing for the manufacturing centres of excellence. I'll take the specifics on notice.

**ANSWER**

In the last three years, TAFE NSW has had Training Agreements in place with 3 defence industry companies.

The training provided through these agreements is strictly focused on technical and vocational skills development and is not connected to weapons manufacturing or any related activities.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: TAFE NSW NORTHERN BEACHES

## QUESTION 30, PAGE NO 46

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** I welcome everybody back. If I could have a look at the Northern Beaches TAFE campus. Ms Read, I know we spoke about this a little bit earlier, but I wonder if you might be able to elaborate in terms of the services or the staff at that campus? I have reports, in terms of the move to centralise services within TAFE, that some of these campuses now have an absence of marketing people and an absence of student coordinators on the campus. I wonder if you might be able to elaborate on that?

**CHLOE READ:** I think I will take on notice the specifics relating to the Northern Beaches campus, but what I would say is something that Ms Tickle alluded to earlier in one of her answers, which is that really quite a lot of the roles that we have in TAFE NSW are location agnostic. We have people working in various different teams all over the State because we have that big campus footprint. As I said, I'll take the specifics on notice, but the bringing together of different functions that might have been regionally based into centralised functions doesn't necessarily imply that we would centralise the staff in terms of the location from which they had to work. Ms Tickle, do you have anything else you want to say about that?

**JULIE TICKLE:** No, that's right. I look after the people group—so traditional HR functions—and we've got people across the State. You can really do those corporate support roles from anywhere. Obviously on the campuses we have student-facing support—so student services representatives and obviously the teachers, of course—but a lot of the roles are location agnostic.

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** Ms Tickle, just in reference to that, I also have a report of the absence of a campus-based student coordinator at Northern Beaches.

**JULIE TICKLE:** We'd have to take that on notice in terms of who actually works at the Northern Beaches. Quite often we have people who look after a couple of campuses, so that may be one of those cases, but we'll take it on notice and let you know.

## ANSWER

There is no role within the TAFE NSW structure titled Student Coordinator.

A number of other student services positions are based at the Northern Beaches, including:

- Permanent Student Support Services staff, including Counselling, Library, and Disability & Access staff, are based on campus. Student Services—covering Enquiries and Customer Service—operate onsite five days per week.

Staff that coordinate student services delivery regionally and statewide.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: HYDROGEN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

**QUESTION 31, PAGE NO 46**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I just want to go back to the manufacturing centres of excellence again. I think the Minister said before lunch that they're all open and operating. Is that correct?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, that's correct.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Was hydrogen the one he has talked about as well? Didn't he mention that?

**CHLOE READ:** The plumbing?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Yes.

**CHLOE READ:** That's a question for the department.

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** Yes, that's being delivered. It's a Hydrogen Centre of Excellence. That's currently going through the planning approval process at the moment with, I think, Blacktown City Council.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Is there a time frame on the delivery for that?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** Not a specific time frame at the moment, given that it's still going through the planning procedure at the moment. But if we have further information, I'd be happy to take that on notice and come back to you though.

**ANSWER**

The Hydrogen Centre of Excellence, which will be owned and operated by Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre, is expected to be operational by 2027.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: 1000 APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES - TRAINING PROVIDERS**

**QUESTION 32, PAGE NO 47**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Is there a breakdown of those 640 in terms of who's studying through TAFE or RTOs? How does that work in practice?

**MURAT DIZDAR:** Ms Lawrence, do we have any of that?

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** I don't have that information here today, but we certainly do have it and I can get that for you.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW is delivering training to 56% of apprentices and trainees in Round 1 and Round 2 of the Program.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: SMART AND SKILLED TRAINING PROVIDER ISSUES - STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS****QUESTION 33, PAGE NO 50**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That makes sense. Do you have any data on—and I appreciate what you're saying about the two streams—how many individuals, maybe even with the catch-up approach, you've had to do that with and in what areas? On notice is fine. I don't expect it now.

**MURAT DIZDAR:** We'll see what we've got. I'm not sure if we've got that data, but we'll go back and have a look.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I'm just trying to understand how frequently that occurs and the scale of the issue.

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** If there is a circumstance where we're engaging with a Smart and Skilled provider and we're giving them notice that we intend to suspend their contract or terminate them, we are certainly then looking at the impact on students. Depending on the particular circumstance that we are giving the provider notice for, we might work with them alongside them to teach out the students they've got with appropriate support in place. Or, depending on the nature of concerns we have, we might refer them to another training provider, such as TAFE or another independent provider that we fund in that area, to make sure they can continue their training. So it really depends on the particular circumstance as well.

**ANSWER**

Since 1 January 2020, the department has terminated Smart and Skilled contracts of 17 training providers due to non-compliance with the contract. Seven of these training providers did not have any students in training at the time of termination.

For the remaining 10 training providers, the department provided impacted students with options to continue their training with other Smart and Skilled training providers.

The department does not disclose the names of training providers that had contracts suspended or terminated.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: EVET TENDERS - PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

**QUESTION 34, PAGE NO 50**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** How does the procurement process for EVET run in terms of the time frame?

**MURAT DIZDAR:** Just like our standard procurement processes on the procurement website: following all government procurement guidelines.

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** How long are the tenders in place for?

**MURAT DIZDAR:** I would have to take that on notice because it varies and differs depending on the types of courses, the regions, and what student demand and the profile of demand in the future might look like. There's a range of factors that might influence how long that procurement process might take, and when it might open as well.

**ANSWER**

The Department of Education complies the NSW Government Procurement Policy Framework and timeframes.

EVET tenders are in place for 3 years from 1 July 2023. The current EVET contract has an extension option to extend by two 12 month periods.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: EVET TENDERS

## QUESTION 35, PAGE NO 51

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** Yes, I think they have and it's been confirmed, hence the concerns and wanting the Committee to know it's now a three- to four-year wait for them before they could re-tender for this. The other frustrating thing would be, in terms of their training service, they meet some of the critical skills areas that we're looking at. So I wonder if you might want to take it on notice or something—in terms of EVET, the availability of the funding, the time frame, are people who are unsuccessful waiting three to four years for the opportunity to re-tender?

**MURAT DIZDAR:** I appreciate what you're saying. The good news here is it's a very competitive market. You want to make sure you get good quality providers coming through, so that's a good position to be in. Maybe you can give us the specifics outside of this and we're happy to follow-up with them. We can come back to you on notice about our general operational guidelines around it.

## ANSWER

Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) can tender at the end of the current contracts.

Details regarding EVET tenders will be published on <https://buy.nsw.gov.au/> when available.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: ELECTROTECHNOLOGY COURSES

## QUESTION 36, PAGE NO 51

**The CHAIR:** Can I just come back to the issues we were discussing earlier around TAFE and cert III in electrotechnology. I know that some of that was taken on notice but I believe what the Minister was saying—or the impression I got—was that it was felt that it was a fabricated claim and that there was no issue with campuses being unable to accept for semester 2. I've gone back and had a look. My information is that cert III in electrotechnology was unable to accept for semester 2 at Meadowbank, Miller, St George, Ultimo, Wollongong, Northern Beaches, Mount Druitt and Hornsby.

**CHLOE READ:** As I said before, I will take that on notice. The Minister—I'm not sure that he thought it's a fabrication but perhaps a point in time and to do with some media reporting in particular, maybe. Certainly the profile of enrolments will change as we approach semester 2 and then are into it; we're quite a way into semester 2 now. I don't know if Mr Hawkins has anything else that we managed to find. We did make some inquiries in the break about things. I think there was one, but I don't think it's any of the campuses that you mentioned. Was it Orange?

**MARK HAWKINS:** Yes. I think, Ms Boyd, you asked about if there'd been any cancellations of cert III electrotech courses or offerings.

**The CHAIR:** I did, yes. That's one of them.

**MARK HAWKINS:** By way of an update, there was. There were two part-time offerings that were cancelled at Orange as a result of no applications or enrolments. That did not impact school-based apprenticeship delivery of cert III electrotech at Orange.

**CHLOE READ:** That list you gave me was slightly bigger, wasn't it?

**The CHAIR:** Yes.

**CHLOE READ:** It'll come through as a question on notice and we'll go and find, specifically for those campuses, what are we offering, how many students and can we still accept enrolments now—noting that after a certain point in time, you do need to move to the next term or the next semester because you've missed delivery.

## ANSWER

The Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician was offered at the following TAFE NSW campuses in Semester 2, 2025: Wyong, Mount Druitt, Ultimo, Meadowbank, Wollongong, Sutherland, Hornsby, Nowra, Bathurst, Dubbo, Granville, Albury, St George, Moss Vale, Glendale, Grafton, Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, Miller, Orange, Belmont, Northern Beaches, Newcastle, Tamworth, Wollongbar.

As at 10 September 2025, classes are running at capacity at 15 of the 25 locations. However, enrolments in the Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician cease after week three from the course start date, for educational reasons, which was 8 August 2025 for Semester 2, 2025 commencing cohort.

TAFE NSW locations which offered the Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician and still had capacity for enrolment at 8 August 2025 for Semester 2 2025 included Meadowbank, Wollongbar, Orange, Port Macquarie, Wagga Wagga, Grafton, Moss Vale, Albury, Belmont and Nowra.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

**QUESTION 37, PAGE NO 51-52**

**The CHAIR:** Going back to the public interest disclosure investigations, how many of them are currently underway? I think we said 48.

**JULIE TICKLE:** We have 21 open ongoing investigations from the 100 new matters that I talked about for the last financial year.

**CHLOE READ:** No, I think—were you asking about PIDs?

**The CHAIR:** Yes.

**JULIE TICKLE:** So that's everything together. Before the break I said 48 reports were received and classified as PIDs and 29 additional were received but not classified as PIDs.

**CHLOE READ:** That was in the last financial year, so that's as at the end of June.

**JULIE TICKLE:** Yes.

**CHLOE READ:** I would need to take on notice any update between then and now.

**ANSWER**

As of 11 September 2025, there are currently 6 open investigations underway that have commenced as a result of a voluntary or mandatory Public Interest Disclosure that was made between 1 July 2025 and 11 September 2025.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: ELECTRICAL TRADES TEACHERS**

**QUESTION 38, PAGE NO 53**

**The CHAIR:** Can we just go back to this question around energy? How many current electrical teachers are on temporary or casual contracts rather than permanent?

**MURAT DIZDAR:** In TAFE?

**The CHAIR:** Yes.

**CHLOE READ:** I think I took the full number of teachers on notice. I'll take how many of them are on temporary or casual contracts, noting that when we were talking earlier about the process to convert from casual to permanent contracts, that is an employee choice. There may be a bunch of people who are on casual or temporary contracts who wish to be so.

**The CHAIR:** This is in relation to the electrical apprentices.

**ANSWER**

Of the approximately 300 current electrical teachers, 78% are permanent, 21% are casual and less than 1% are temporary.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WAITLISTS**

**QUESTION 39, PAGE NO 53**

**The CHAIR:** This is in relation to the electrical apprentices. I asked you before for those who were waiting six months or 12 months or longer. Can you add into that also any kind of data that you hold in relation to average wait times for regional versus metro students as well?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, we'll get whatever we have for you on that, again noting that the delivery profile might mean it is hard to determine which a student might be.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW does not use waitlists for apprenticeships.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: SAP PLATFORM

## QUESTION 40, PAGE NO 54

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** In terms of the SAP platform, there is an investment to look to do some transitioning on that particular portal that I think was reported on. Can you provide any updates on that? I'm happy whether it's Ms Read or Ms Rankin.

**CHLOE READ:** I'll have a crack and then Ms Rankin can tell me where I've missed something.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I probably won't know if you don't cover it all, to be honest.

**CHLOE READ:** The SAP system, which is part of the architecture that manages things to do with employees and payroll—TAFE's instance of that is relatively old and on-premise. What we're doing is upgrading to the later version, but also moving that into a managed environment in the cloud. It's essentially the modern version of how you run those systems. So we've got funding to do that, and the project is underway.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Did you want to add anything, Ms Rankin?

**FIONA RANKIN:** SAP represents our enterprise resource planning system. Essentially it manages, largely, the HR piece, payroll and our financial side of business, so it's pretty core to the corporate business.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** In addition to that, is there some new work with your software licences through Microsoft and the cloud as well? Is that happening in tandem with that work, or is that one and the same?

**FIONA RANKIN:** Part of the contract negotiations with SAP was that there's a cloud-based version of that. That went out, and Microsoft were awarded that business.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Is there a total figure on what the spend is on all of that work that we've talked about? If you need to take it on notice, that's fine.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, let's take that on notice, because I suspect we've got some bits and not others.

## ANSWER

The total cost of the current program to upgrade and remediate TAFE NSW's Enterprise Resource Platform is \$15.5 million in 2025-26. This includes approximately \$4 million for licensing costs.

This upgrade will strengthen service delivery by enhancing user experience and reducing administrative burden on staff.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: ACE STRATEGY PROJECTS**

**QUESTION 41, PAGE NO 55**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** In terms of next year's priority projects, have they been identified?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have that information in front of me at the moment.

**ANSWER**

The Department of Education will continue to update the community about the NSW Adult and Community Education (ACE) Strategy on its website at: [www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/adult-and-community-education/ace-strategy](http://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/adult-and-community-education/ace-strategy). Upcoming updates will include the 2025-26 focus areas and outcomes from the 2024-25 focus areas.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: FEE - FREE PART QUALIFICATIONS COMPLETIONS**

**QUESTION 42, PAGE NO 55**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** If I could look at New South Wales fee-free part qualifications, which I understand are short courses often referred to as "microcredentials", how many New South Wales fee-free part qualifications were completed in financial year 2024-25?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I will see if I've got that information for you, Ms Merton. Otherwise, we will take it on notice. I don't have the breakdown in front of me specifically around fee-free part qualifications. We might have to take that one on notice.

**ANSWER**

NSW Government funded part qualifications are delivered fee free through the Smart and Skilled Targeted Priorities Prevocational and Part Qualification (TPPPQ) program.

Part qualifications training is delivered in sectors that reflect government priorities and changing economic conditions to meet the local skills needs of NSW employers and communities.

The National Centre for Vocational Education and Research releases regular reports on government funded training for various qualification types, including part qualifications, in their Government-Funded Students and Courses report.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: FEE - FREE PART QUALIFICATIONS COURSE AREAS**

**QUESTION 43, PAGE NO 55**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** In terms of the 11 courses covered under the fee-free part qualification, do we know what those areas would include?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I don't have that information in front of me. Ms Lawrence, do you have that—

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** No, I would need to take that on notice, but we can provide that.

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to question 42.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROJECT**

**QUESTION 44, PAGE NO 56**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** I'll detail it a little bit more. It's in reference to a \$1 million program, with an announced three-year pilot, which I understand will pair 100 tertiary students with businesses in New South Wales to undertake paid work on projects setting out to reduce emissions. Does that make sense?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** It does. It's not one within our agency, unfortunately, Ms Merton. We can take that on notice and see if we can get other relevant information through to you, but that's not one where we're involved.

**ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES - COURSES**

**QUESTION 45, PAGE NO 56**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Again, I'm happy for you to take it on notice, but do you have the overall figures at the moment for people who are undertaking apprenticeships, particularly in those trades around plumbing, carpentry and electrotechnology?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I will check. Ms Lawrence will be able to provide you with that information.

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** Yes, I have that. As at 24 July this year, there are approximately 58,000 apprentices and trainees currently in training in the construction skills area, with more than 18,000 training contracts approved so far this year.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Of that 58,000, do you have a breakdown of which areas—so plumbing versus electric versus carpentry?

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** All of those qualifications are in there. I can get you a breakdown.

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to supplementary question 45.

## Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025

## Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

## TITLE: CAREER FAIRS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

## QUESTION 46, PAGE NO 56-57

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That would be good. I'm curious to how that's all tracking. Also, as part of that package, there was \$2 million for school career fairs and industry partnerships. I think they talked about the tiny homes and Girls Can Too. There were a few different options in there. I think it was 3,000 school students. Where will that be available? Where will those fairs be running? What will that look like?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** That's correct. We're happy to take the details on notice on particular schools and some details of the particular industry fairs that are coming up. We're off and running with that already. There is a tiny home project at a school in the North Coast. Students last year participated in a process where they built a tiny home as part of their high school offering and sold that. The school made some money off that and was able to reinvest into continuing that project again. We're going to be expanding that to further parts of the country.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Which school was that, do you know?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I'm not sure what school that was.

**MURAT DIZDAR:** We should visit.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I was going to say, Murat—sorry, Mr Dizdar, do you know?

**MURAT DIZDAR:** It just got my attention. We should be building homes in every high school.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Yes, it sounds really good.

**CHLOE READ:** I would love a tiny house. I might buy it.

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** It's a really great initiative. We're doing that in other parts of the State as a result of this package as well. We'll get you further details on notice about that.

## ANSWER

The Department of Education's Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) program is delivering 'hands-on' projects to encourage up to 3,000 NSW school students to join the construction workforce. This includes the expansion of RIEP Tiny Homes in Schools and Girls Can Too! projects.

It is also supporting hands-on career fairs and career expo events. Dates, locations and the structure of these events depend on school and industry demand and are yet to be confirmed.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES - GENDER**

**QUESTION 47, PAGE NO 57**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** The Girls Can Too, I'm assuming, is about trying to get female participation into those constructions trades.

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** Yes, into the construction industry. That's correct—high school students, correct.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Do you have with you, Ms Lawrence, a breakdown of the 58,000 that you gave in terms of male versus female participant?

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** No, I don't have that, but I can get that.

**ANSWER**

Vocational education and training statistics dashboard is available online at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/for-vet-training-providers/training-stats>.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: HOSPITALITY COURSES – NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST REGION****QUESTION 48, PAGE NO 57**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** I'd like to do that. Sounds good. We talked about this a little bit earlier with the Minister in terms of course offerings, particularly in the New England North West area. One other thing that gets raised with me a little bit is access to hospitality training up in that area, particularly some of the certificate courses. Is there any data in terms of what's available in the New England North West, specifically for hospitality?

**CHLOE READ:** There will be. I don't have that with me. I think you heard Mr Hawkins say earlier that sometimes we offer things and don't get a lot of demand, and I know in a couple of areas, where we've had things raised with us, we've had offerings available and we've had no takers. Do you want a specific region, did you say, sorry?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That request came from Armidale. But I'm interested in the New England North West, what offerings there are for those hospitality courses.

**CHLOE READ:** Why don't we take that on notice and come back with that?

**ANSWER**

For 2025, in the New England Northwest region TAFE NSW has delivered:

- The Certificate II in Hospitality and Certificate III in Hospitality.
- Hospitality short courses including Responsible Service of Alcohol; Statement of Attainment in Espresso Coffee Making Skills; and Statement of Attainment in Provide Responsible Gambling Services.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES - COMPLETIONS FOR KEY CONSTRUCTION AREAS****QUESTION 49, PAGE NO 57-58**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** In terms of the apprenticeship numbers that were provided there and the number of training contracts in place, I'm just interested in looking at what the completion rates may be. What do we know, possibly over the last maybe 12 months and the earlier 12 months, about how we are tracking on completion of these apprenticeships in key construction areas relevant to the housing demand?

**JEREMY KURUCZ:** I'll defer to Ms Lawrence, if she has any specific information about the construction sector. What I can say is we had an increase of about 4 per cent in terms of apprenticeship completions in 2024, compared to 2023. We are seeing early evidence of increased retention rates through the VET system, which is really pleasing at the moment. Hopefully, in coming years, we'll see a subsequent increase in completion rates. I'll just ask Ms Lawrence if she has any further information she can provide on completions.

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** Just expanding on those numbers I provided before about in training, we've had more than 9,000 apprentices and trainees in the construction skills areas complete their training so far this year. I don't have a breakdown for past years, but I can let you know the highest numbers of apprentice completions and the qualifications. They were in between 2021 and 2024, and they were the cert III in carpentry, electrotechnology, plumbing, air conditioning and refrigeration, and roof plumbing.

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** In terms of a percentage, if you could just put that back to me, what completion rates do we have?

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** I'll take it on notice so I don't have to do the maths here. But it's 9,000 so far this year.

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer to supplementary question 45.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES - COMPLETIONS**

**QUESTION 50, PAGE NO 58**

**The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:** From memory—and please correct me—I thought we were looking at completion rates of about 50 per cent, which was one in two enrolled students would complete that area of study. Does that still remain the case?

**AMANDA LAWRENCE:** I think our completion rates in New South Wales are slightly higher than that. I can find the correct figure for you.

**ANSWER**

Please see answer to supplementary question 45.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 51, PAGE NO 60**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Have there been people within your staff who have already gone out onsite into the town centre to have a look?

**CHLOE READ:** I'd have to take on notice the degree of site visits and things. Obviously if you're looking at different places and different approaches, you have to look at what's available to you as well. You would have to say, "What would the cost to build on this site be versus that site versus to lease this place or that place?"

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** How many staff would you say you have on this project right now working on it?

**CHLOE READ:** I'd have to take that on notice because the team aren't likely just to be working on the business case for this; they're likely to be the team that works across a whole range of work to do with the planning of our assets and those kinds of things.

**ANSWER**

Five members of the TAFE Infrastructure NSW team are working on the development of a Final Business case for the Bankstown project as part of their normal roles. This is not their sole focus.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 52, PAGE NO 60**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** When do you envisage the business case to be finalised?

**CHLOE READ:** I'm hoping this year, but I'm going to confirm that on notice. I just want to check in with the team.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Will you take that on notice and confirm it by notice?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, definitely.

**ANSWER**

The Final Business Case is expected to be completed this financial year. A Government decision on the long-term relocation approach is subject to external, whole of Government processes outside of TAFE NSW's control.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 53, PAGE NO 60**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** When did the access period start?

**CHLOE READ:** I'll take that on notice. I was there on Monday and there were people onsite starting to do the stuff.

**ANSWER**

The access period for the space being leased by TAFE NSW at the Western Sydney University Tower commenced in July 2025.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 54, PAGE NO 60**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** I understand that, but it was your first visit to the tower. I understood the Minister hasn't been to the tower.

**CHLOE READ:** I think that's what he said earlier.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** I thought so—in a roundabout way. He avoided saying it.

**CHLOE READ:** But we can correct that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 55, PAGE NO 60-61**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** The access period has already started. When will the lease then begin?

**CHLOE READ:** I'm going to take that on notice because I don't think I have that date in front of me.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** If you can take it on notice, I'd like to know exactly the date. I will be putting that same question to the professor this afternoon. They may be in a position where they might know that.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes. I just don't have it with me. I'm sure that we know it. I just don't have it in my head or on the page in front of me.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW's lease at the Western Sydney University Tower will commence 1 January 2026.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 56, PAGE NO 61**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** That's right. I think the figure was slightly higher than I received at the last budget estimates. That's fine. Are you expecting that these students will all be onsite or will there be a combination of online students coming on next year?

**CHLOE READ:** There'd be a combination.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** What is the current combination? Do you know?

**CHLOE READ:** I don't, but I can take that on notice.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Could you take that on notice?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, of course.

**ANSWER**

The total number of TAFE NSW Bankstown enrolments consists of a combination of face to face and blended learning students. This means all courses are delivered face-to-face, and where some units can be completed online students have the flexibility to do so.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW PADSTOW**

**QUESTION 57, PAGE NO 61**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** I'm anticipating that it will be higher. And then, again, I also put to the professor: What was the combination of online and not online?

**CHLOE READ:** Yes, okay. The other thing I'll say on that—obviously we'll get it on notice—is, as the Minister referenced, we are moving some things to Padstow as well and then we're introducing nursing once we've done that ANMAC certification.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** You're saying some will come over, but how many realistically out of that 5,000? I didn't think it would be that much.

**CHLOE READ:** Animal studies is relatively small but early childhood I think is larger.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Can you take on notice how many you anticipate will go over to Padstow? Padstow has a much smaller number of enrolments.

**CHLOE READ:** Yes. What we'll do is give you the breakdown of who's enrolled and what we know about online versus blended versus face-to-face only delivery. I'll see what we can get.

**ANSWER**

Figures are subject to future enrolment demand.

All courses are delivered face-to-face, and where some units can be completed online students have the flexibility to do so.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WORKERS COMPENSATION**

**QUESTION 58, PAGE NO 63**

**The CHAIR:** How many workers compensation claims have been lodged by TAFE NSW staff in the past five years? Are you able to tell me that broken down by physical versus psychological injury?

**CHLOE READ:** As you can imagine, I'm going to look towards Ms Tickle to see if she has that information here with her.

**JULIE TICKLE:** I don't have in the last five years, but I can tell you currently there are just over 400 open workers compensation claims. Forty-three per cent of those are psychological, and 57 per cent are physical claims. But I don't have the last five years.

**The CHAIR:** Take that bit on notice?

**JULIE TICKLE:** Sure.

**ANSWER**

The TAFE NSW Annual Report 2023-2024 provides a summary of TAFE NSW's Worker's Compensation performance over the last five years

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WORKERS COMPENSATION**

**QUESTION 59, PAGE NO 63**

**The CHAIR:** Are you able to tell me the average cost per workers compensation claim at TAFE NSW?

**JULIE TICKLE:** I'll just have a look if I have that. No, I don't. I'd be happy to provide what we can on notice. We would have that. I just don't have it in front of me.

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer for transcript question 58.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025****Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WORKERS COMPENSATION****QUESTION 60, PAGE NO 63**

**The CHAIR:** Yes. We found that, across different departments and different agencies within New South Wales government, there's a different approach to the use of investigations. For instance, Health has a much higher level of investigation of psychological claims than Education does. Also, some agencies use a lot more surveillance. So I guess it's the degree to which scepticism is applied to the claim as it's coming through. There are a couple of different aspects to this: It's the steps that are taken by the agency prior to accepting the claim and when it's going to actually dispute the claim, and then also what kind of measures it might employ in order to investigate. That changes, agency by agency. I'm wondering if TAFE has a particular policy that it can share with us.

**JULIE TICKLE:** Not that I'm aware of, but I'd be happy to take that on notice and double-check. What we concentrate on at TAFE is return to work. We have injury case management specialists, and we've added some more to the team that sits in my portfolio, to support people who are off work. Workers compensation claims can be provisionally accepted by the insurer, and then they are actually accepted by the insurer. So we work with the employee, their line manager and, obviously, with the insurer through that whole process.

**The CHAIR:** Do you mind taking on notice just to have a look if there's any other bits of policy document or other things that can help inform what the approach is?

**JULIE TICKLE:** Yes, certainly, I can.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW does not have a policy in relation to investigations and surveillance on workers compensation claims. Workers compensation claim investigations and surveillance are processes that the insurer (or Claims Service Provider under the Treasury Managed Fund scheme) may undertake in accordance with SIRA standards of practice and any other requirements of iCare.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WORKERS COMPENSATION**

**QUESTION 61, PAGE NO 64**

**The CHAIR:** What's the average time lost per workers compensation claim for TAFE NSW's staff?

**JULIE TICKLE:** I think, Ms Boyd, I will have to take that on notice and provide it back to you.

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer for transcript question 58.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**QUESTION 62, PAGE NO 64**

**The CHAIR:** How often does the TAFE NSW board or the audit and risk committee receive reports on workers compensation performance and risks?

**JULIE TICKLE:** We report to the audit and risk committee every quarter, I think it is, on work health and safety more broadly, which includes workers compensation, injury rates, use of EAP, all that sort of thing. So we do very comprehensive reporting. The executive leadership team receives the reports once a month. I'm not quite sure on the board.

**CHLOE READ:** I don't know off the top. We can take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

The TAFE NSW Audit and Risk Committee receives quarterly Work Health and Safety Performance Reports.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**QUESTION 63, PAGE NO 64**

**The CHAIR:** What's the recent trend in claim frequency within TAFE NSW?

**JULIE TICKLE:** The serious claims frequency rate is what we measure. There has been a decrease in the serious claims frequency rate in the last financial year. But you actually asked specifically about workers comp, and I thought that was here.

**The CHAIR:** You can take that on notice.

**JULIE TICKLE:** I'm really sorry. If it's here, I'll come back to you, but I just can't find it right this minute.

**ANSWER**

Refer to answer for transcript question 58.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 64, PAGE NO 64**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** How far is the town centre? Do you have a map of what you constitute as the town centre of Bankstown? I know they were the words the Minister used, but is it the whole suburb of Bankstown?

**CHLOE READ:** Let me take that on notice because there will be some ABS definition.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW used the analysis area defined by the Bankstown City Centre Master Plan, published by Canterbury Bankstown Council available at <https://www.cbcity.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-building/councils-strategies-and-masterplans/bankstown-city-centre-master-plan>

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 65, PAGE NO 64**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Will the Bankstown Senior College site be one of the sites that TAFE will look into as a possibility?

**CHLOE READ:** Let me take that on notice and I'll come back to you.

**ANSWER**

A Final Business Case is being developed to determine the long-term relocation approach.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 66, PAGE NO 65**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Ms Read, have you had discussions with the traffic committee of Canterbury-Bankstown Council or their traffic engineers to raise any—

**CHLOE READ:** Let me take that on notice. I know we've met with council a couple of times this year, but I don't have detail on what we've talked to them about. I'm happy to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW has regular engagement with the Canterbury Bankstown Council. Three meetings have been held in 2025, and discussions have included parking arrangements.

TAFE NSW representatives will continue to meet with Council on an ongoing basis for the duration of the relocation program.

**Budget Estimates 2025-26 Hearing – 29 August 2025**

**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

**TITLE: TAFE NSW BANKSTOWN**

**QUESTION 67, PAGE NO 65-66**

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Ms Read, have you had discussions with the traffic committee of Canterbury-Bankstown Council or their traffic engineers to raise any—

**CHLOE READ:** Let me take that on notice. I know we've met with council a couple of times this year, but I don't have detail on what we've talked to them about. I'm happy to take that on notice.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** Back on the permanent location, has the Minister provided you with an idea of how much budget there is for a new location? Obviously the amount that you've got now, this \$100 million, doesn't include a new location whatsoever, right?

**CHLOE READ:** No, that's right. The purpose of the business case would be to assess all the options, to determine what they are and the relative costs and relative benefits, and then you put that to Government as a means to secure that funding. You wouldn't get funding without it.

**The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK:** But we are not very far along in this development stage, are we, Ms Read?

**CHLOE READ:** As I said, it is underway. I'm hoping it's going to be this year, but I was going to come back to you on notice on that.

**ANSWER**

Please refer to Transcript Question 52.