

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **Questions Taken on Notice During Hearing**

##### **QUESTION**

1. The number of TAFE Illawarra students in construction from 2009 to 2015.

##### **ANSWER**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>

##### **QUESTION**

2. How many students were there in Dapto TAFE last year?

##### **ANSWER**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>

##### **QUESTION**

3. What programs are you advertising for Dapto TAFE?
  - a. A list of courses advertised for 2015.
  - b. Dates of the last courses and where they were advertised

##### **ANSWER**

Certificate 1 in Access to Work and Training and Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training will be offered in 2016.

- a.
  1. Certificate 1 in Access to Work and Training (Basic Computer Skills)
  2. Certificate 1 in Access to Work and Training (Intermediate Computer Skills)
  3. Certificate 1 in Access to Work and Training (Literacy and Numeracy)
  4. Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training – Introduction to the Community Services
  5. Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training - Intermediate Computer Skills
  6. Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training – School Clerical Support
  7. Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training – Floristry
- b. The last course commenced on 24 April 2015 and concluded on 15 September 2015. Courses for 2015 were advertised on the TAFE Illawarra website, flyers and visits undertaken to job networks in Term 1, good news stories were published in local press, promotional activities occurred at Semester 1 and Semester 2 ‘Choices Day’ (registration and enrolment

days), and phone calls were made to students who had previously expressed interest.

**QUESTION**

4. What is the overall decline in student numbers at Nowra?

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>

**QUESTION**

5. There were two changes to the cap for TAFE Illawarra. What was the increase for both of these?

**ANSWER**

The first was offered by State Training Services on 19 December 2014 and totalled \$705,640. The second increase was on 17 July 2015 and totalled \$336,380.

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Supplementary questions on notice – Wollongong Hearing – Monday 12 October 2015

Questions for Ms Dianne Murray, Director, TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute

#### **QUESTION**

1. Please provide a breakdown of your revenues by each of the following sources (in the years in which they are applicable) for each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year);
  - a. Operational base funding
  - b. Community services obligations
  - c. Payments under smart and skilled
  - d. Payments for provision of contract services
  - e. Revenue received in fees from students:
    - i. For commercial courses
    - ii. From delivery of Smart and Skilled entitlements
    - iii. From other subsidised end courses
    - iv. From courses that are not subsidised.

#### **ANSWER**

The categories requested do not line up with standard budget items. As such, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources. Details of TAFE NSW revenue are provided in past and current Budget Papers.

#### **QUESTION**

2. Please provide the revenue for each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year) from each of the following:
  - a. Certificate 1 courses
  - b. Certificate II courses
  - c. Certificate III courses
  - d. Certificate IV courses
  - e. Diploma courses
  - f. Advanced Diploma courses
  - g. Other (please specify categories).

#### **ANSWER**

TAFE NSW and TAFE Illawarra do not itemise revenue by these categories. Details of TAFE NSW revenue are provided in past and current Budget Papers.

### QUESTION

3. Please provide the number of face-to-face hours delivered for each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year) from each of the following:
- Certificate 1 courses
  - Certificate II courses
  - Certificate III courses
  - Certificate IV courses
  - Diploma courses
  - Advance Diploma courses
  - Other (please specify categories).

### ANSWER

TAFE course delivery is customised to suit student, industry and site requirements. Data reports of this nature are not routine parts of operational reporting. Given the number of delivery sites within TAFE NSW and the number of courses delivered, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

### QUESTION

4. Please provide the number of full time equivalent student enrolments and the body count enrolments in each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year) for each of the following:
- Certificate 1 courses
  - Certificate II courses
  - Certificate III courses
  - Certificate IV courses
  - Diploma courses
  - Advance Diploma courses
  - Other (please specify categories).

### ANSWER

This data is available from the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) VET Provider Collection. They can be accessed via the VOCSTATS database at [www.ncver.edu.au/resources/vocstats.html](http://www.ncver.edu.au/resources/vocstats.html). Alternatively, a report can be requested directly from NCVER at the following email: [vet\\_req@ncver.edu.au](mailto:vet_req@ncver.edu.au).

### QUESTION

5. Please provide a list of all courses where face-to-face delivery hours per student-qualification in 2014 were less than 85% of what it was four years ago:
- For each such course, please provide the hours in 2014, the hours 4 years ago and the explanation as to the reduction.

### ANSWER

Given the number of courses offered over the time period by TAFE Illawarra, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

#### **QUESTION**

6. Please provide a list of all courses where face-to-face delivery hours per student-qualification in 2015 is anticipated to be less than 85% of what it was 4 years ago and the explanation as to the reduction.

#### **ANSWER**

Given the number of courses offered over the time period by TAFE Illawarra, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

#### **QUESTION**

7. Please describe the protocols used to ensure that all students who are enrolled in courses with significant on-line instruction have the appropriate skills and base knowledge to successfully study on line.

#### **ANSWER**

Students are supported by the teacher through an orientation process conducted in face-to-face sessions. Students also have ongoing access to support from campus libraries, learning centres and adult study centres where digital and information literacy and skills programs are available.

#### **QUESTION**

8. Please provide for each of the last five years (including partial or excepted results for 2015) the number of hours of each of the following provided by the Illawarra Institute:
  - a. Note takers for the hearing impaired
  - b. Sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired.

#### **ANSWER**

This data is not available as the amount of disability support provided by TAFE Illawarra is not disaggregated by disability type.

#### **QUESTION**

9. For each of the last five years (inclosing partial results for 2015) please provide the number of hours of employment of Part Time Casual Teachers:
  - a. Pleased break this down by faculty if possible.

#### **ANSWER**

Given the number of Part Time Casual Teachers employed by TAFE Illawarra, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

#### **QUESTION**

10. What fraction of students choose delivery modes other than face to face?
- Please provide a breakdown between the number that choose online and how many are workplace.
  - What percentage of these students had the option of taking classroom delivery (i.e. it was offered in the course of study they were undertaking)?

**ANSWER**

TAFE Illawarra offers a variety of delivery modes. This includes classroom, distance, electronic, on the job and blended learning. It is not possible to accurately provide data as many students may complete their studies by accessing several of these modes.

**QUESTION**

11. For each of the last five years (including partial results for 2015) please provide Illawarra Institute's revenue from *VET FEE-HELP* broken down by qualification level.

**ANSWER**

Details of TAFE NSW revenue is available in Budget Paper 3.

**QUESTION**

12. Smart and Skilled has created substantial uncertainty in Illawarra Institute's future revenues. Please describe how the Institute manages that uncertainty.

**ANSWER**

TAFE Illawarra receives a financial cap each year as part of its Smart and Skilled contracts which enables the Institute to plan for the year.

**QUESTION**

13. Please provide a list of all organisations with which Illawarra Institute has a commercial relationship and for each please describe the scope and nature of that relationship. Please indicate the number of students and courses involved in each.

**ANSWER**

Information on TAFE Illawarra partnerships can be found at <http://www.tafeillawarra.edu.au/business-and-employers/innovations-and-partnerships>. TAFE Illawarra operates in an environment where disclosure of significant operational information regarding these partnership arrangements may cause significant advantage to competitors and financial loss to TAFE Illawarra and its partners. As such, details beyond those in the public domain are commercial-in-confidence.

**QUESTION**

14. Are the total recurrent costs of on-line delivery cheaper than face-to-face for the same course? Please indicate the average difference across Illawarra Institute.

**ANSWER**

There are different cost variables for different modes of delivery and qualifications. Students who do not attend campus are not utilising campus facilities which may result in a reduction of overheads. It is not possible to accurately provide an average, as many students may complete their studies by accessing several different delivery modes.

**QUESTION**

15. For each of the functions involved in on-line delivery:

- a. Please indicate which of those activities are conducted by a qualified professional teacher?
- b. Please provide the average cost per student hour of curriculum for face-to-face teaching in Illawarra Institute
- c. Please indicate the average cost per student hour of curriculum for online provision at Illawarra Institute.

**ANSWER**

- a. Staff who teach, assess, create online products, review and maintain the platforms and products, and are involved in validation and moderation processes are qualified teachers.
- b. TAFE Illawarra does not capture this information.
- c. TAFE Illawarra does not capture this information.

**QUESTION**

16. What was the 2015 student fee for the Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled-Division 2 nursing) at the Illawarra Institute?

**ANSWER**

There were two offerings.

- (1) Smart and Skilled – Places offered as Ministry of Health Scholarships who paid the student contribution. Eligible students paid either the first qualification price of \$4,380 or second qualification price of \$4,930.
- (2) Fee-for-service – Places were offered at the fee-for-service price of \$17,000. Eligible students were able to apply for VET FEE-HELP.

**QUESTION**

17. What are the proposed 2016 student fees for the Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled-Division 2 nursing at the Illawarra TAFE Institute?

**ANSWER**

The 2016 Smart and Skilled qualification prices are the same as 2015. A fee-for-service course offering fee will be \$17,000 - depending on clinical placement costs.

**QUESTION**

18. What was the 2015 student fee for the Diploma of Fine Arts at the Illawarra TAFE Institute?

**ANSWER**

The fee was \$17,980 with eligible students able to apply for VET FEE-HELP.

**QUESTION**

19. What are the proposed 2016 student fees for the Diploma of Fine Arts at the Illawarra TAFE Institute?

**ANSWER**

The proposed fee is \$17,980. Eligible students may apply for VET FEE-HELP.

**QUESTION**

20. Has State Training Services under Smart and Skilled offered increased funding opportunities to Illawarra TAFE Institute from July 1 2015? Please list these.

**ANSWER**

On 17 July 2015, TAFE Illawarra's application to increase the Entitlement and Apprentice and Trainee funding was approved.

**QUESTION**

21. Under Smart and Skilled, are there currently any excess funds available for extra student enrolments at Illawarra TAFE Institute?

**ANSWER**

Throughout 2015, there have been ongoing subsidised enrolments across both Government subsidised and fee-for-service courses.

**QUESTION**

22. Please provide a list of courses that were offered by Illawarra Institute of TAFE that commenced after September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and were completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.

**ANSWER**

Given the number of courses offered over the time period by TAFE Illawarra, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources