

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Regional Development, Skills, Small Business

Friday 4 September 2015

Questions on Notice (Transcript) – TAFE

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How many TAFE courses that were offered in 2014 are not offered in 2015?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The qualifications that are offered through TAFE or private providers are based on the skills needs of industry. That is why we have the NSW Skills Board and the skills list. The board identifies where the skills shortages are. Government subsidies are matched to the skills list. We do not want the situation that arose in Victoria, where 35,000 private trainers trained but there were no jobs. We are matching jobs through the skills list. It changes every year. The skills list will be changed shortly, as we have added qualifications.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I appreciate your answer. Presumably that process applied in 2014 and 2015. In case you did not understand my question, I will repeat it. As a result of the process that you undertook in 2014, how many courses that were offered in 2014 are no longer offered in 2015?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Point of order: The Minister was not the Minister for Skills in 2014. The member has asked three times about 2014, when the Minister was not a Minister.

CHAIR: Order! The question is relevant. The Minister may take it on notice, given that he was not the Minister at the time.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: There are more than 700 qualifications on the skills list. I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER:

With the frequent changes to Training Package qualifications, it is not possible to provide an accurate list of courses that were offered in 2014 that are no longer available in 2015.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How many were there in June 2011?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: Again, I was not the Minister back then. I might refer that to the managing director.

Dr JOHN KAYE: You say that is full-time equivalent. Does that include part-time casuals?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The full-time equivalent formula is to take into account all those part-time casuals.

Dr JOHN KAYE: So it includes all the part-time casual hours?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: If you mean individual people, there are 12,464.

Dr JOHN KAYE: I am just asking if that includes the hours of part-time casuals.

CHAIR: It is the Hon. Daniel Mookhey's time.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Just to clarify this: I am talking about specifically the category described as teachers TAFE NSW.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Point of order: The member's time has expired.

Dr JOHN KAYE: I concede this question to Hon. Daniel Mookhey as his last question.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Just to clarify: I am not asking you to include the support staff specifically; the question is designed not to include that figure. I am asking how many people were employed as teachers in TAFE NSW in June 2011.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I think we are going to have to take that question on notice.

ANSWER:

TAFE NSW provides data on staffing as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports/annual-report-2011>

Dr JOHN KAYE: Point of order: My question was about fees and charges for TAFE. The Minister is now talking about what he has done to change TAFE. I would like to bring him back to the question of how much of that is fees and charges.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The \$528 million.

Dr JOHN KAYE: How much was that figure two years ago and three years ago?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I was not the Minister. I can refer that to the managing director.

Ms CHRISTIE: I will have to take that on notice if you have a specific question.

Dr JOHN KAYE: I have got a very specific question. How much were fees and charges last year and the year before?

Ms CHRISTIE: Last year it was \$419,922.

Dr JOHN KAYE: And the year before?

Ms CHRISTIE: I do not have that in front of me.

Dr JOHN KAYE: But you will take it on notice?

Ms CHRISTIE: Yes.

ANSWER:

For Budget 2015-16, TAFE NSW revenue from sales of goods and services is listed in the Financial Statements for the TAFE Commission - (Budget Paper No. 3, 2015-16, page 6-7). Budget and actual figures for sales of goods and services for 2014-15 are also listed in these Financial Statements. Prior to 1 July 2014, TAFE NSW was included in Department of Education and Communities.

Dr JOHN KAYE: So what has happened to class sizes?

Ms CHRISTIE: More and more of our delivery, as the Minister said, is not face to face in a classroom. More and more of our students are supported in their learning in different ways: in the workplace, online, through a blended approach. So some aspects of their learning may be done in a face-to-face component; others are done in more flexible ways.

Dr JOHN KAYE: But that does not talk about class size.

Ms CHRISTIE: Class sizes are a factor. For the face-to-face component, I am assuming there might be a cohort of learners who are learning through different modes. Maybe you need to define what you mean by a class size?

Dr JOHN KAYE: The number of students in a classroom at any given time.

Ms CHRISTIE: Only 60 per cent of our delivery is actually in a classroom.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Yes, but for that 60 per cent, Ms Christie, is it not true that across a number of course areas, where there are teachers in front of classes teaching, that class sizes have gone up?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Point of order: The member's time has expired. He is now encroaching on your time.

CHAIR: Order! The member came in on the tail end of his time.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: You can come back and ask it again John; you have a second bite of the cherry.

CHAIR: Order! The member did come in before the bell and I was allowing the question to be asked.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Ms Christie, do you need the question again?

CHAIR: Would you like to take it on notice?

Ms CHRISTIE: I will take it on notice, thank you.

ANSWER:

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their services and delivery to meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Let us talk about flexibility. How many part-time casual teachers—we will do full-time equivalents, if you like—are in TAFE now? How many were there two years ago?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: That is a good question, which I will refer to the managing director. A couple of years ago at a budget estimates Dr John Kaye asked a question about the casualisation of TAFE teachers and that something like 55 per cent of the workforce was a casual workforce. That concerned you then. What we are doing with the transformation of the workforce in TAFE is, as we have seen at the northern institute, an example of more permanent teachers. But I will ask the managing director whether she can add to that.

Ms CHRISTIE: I cannot answer that specific question but I am happy to take it on notice.

ANSWER:

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their services and delivery to meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve. TAFE NSW does not establish fixed casual positions. Casual staff are employed according to business demand. This demand fluctuates across TAFE according to the unique business needs of Institutes.