

Attachment B – Response to Questions on Notice

TAFE NSW response to questions taken on notice at the Standing Committee Inquiry into Economic Development in Aboriginal Communities

Question One

“Ms McGregor, you mentioned that you were looking at partnerships with organisations. How does this work? Is the TAFE identifying organisations and going to them and starting it, or are you waiting for people to come to you?”

- In TAFE NSW partnerships are a key focus of our work.
- TAFE NSW actively seeks partnerships with emerging Aboriginal owned enterprises, industries and communities. Our formal agreements with industry, universities and community groups ensure that students graduate with the practical skills they need for work or further education and training.
- TAFE NSW Aboriginal staff work across government agencies to increase pathways of Aboriginal students onto further study and employment. These includes partnerships with:
 - NSW Fire and Rescue
 - NSW Police Force
 - Corrective Services NSW (MOU)
 - NSW Department of Health
 - NSW Department of Education
 - Department of Defence
 - Roads and Maritime Services
- TAFE NSW works in partnership with peak Aboriginal organisations. These include:
 - NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.
 - NSW Aboriginal Land Council
 - Aboriginal Medical Services
 - Local Decision Making Regional Alliances (OCHRE)
 - Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
 - Aboriginal Hostels

Question Two

“Those are really good examples that we would love to showcase a bit more. If you have any more, and if you could take this question on notice, we would love to hear about those as well.

- **iSmile** is a designated Aboriginal program developed by TAFE Western in collaboration with Commonwealth and NSW Government agencies, Aboriginal Medical Services and Charles Sturt University to provide Aboriginal students with a pathway to either a career in oral health therapy and dentistry or other health industry areas. Students on completion are awarded a **Certificate III Dental Nursing**.
- TAFE New England in partnership with Ministry of Health and Hunter New England Health provide a pathway for Aboriginal people into Nursing. Students on completion are awarded a **Diploma of Nursing**.
- **Certificate III Aboriginal Site Management** is a designated Aboriginal program developed by TAFE Illawarra in collaboration with other TAFE Institutes, Roads and Maritime Services, NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage and Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council to increase the number of qualified Aboriginal Site Officers working on infrastructure projects in NSW. This course is a career pathway for Aboriginal students into Aboriginal Site Management, NSW Government Agencies and environmental industry areas.
- **Indigenous Pre Recruitment Course (IPRC)** is a partnership between TAFE NSW South Western Sydney Institute and the Department of Defence. IPRC is a program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to find their ultimate career pathway within Army, Navy, Air Force or the Australian Public Service. Participants will complete a Certificate III in Employment and Training over a period of 6 months which consists of a six week residential block based in Sydney and various defence basis.
- **Indigenous Police Recruitment Our Way Delivery (IPROWD)** is partnership between TAFE Western Institute, NSW Police Force, Charles Stuart University and the Commonwealth Government. IPROWD is a collaborative specialist training program to assist Aboriginal people to gain entry to the NSW Police Academy. The program demonstrates high retention and completion rates across TAFE NSW and on completion participants gain a Certificate III in Vocational and Study Pathways.

Question Three

“Could you also on notice give us some more statistics – you mentioned that there were 37,000 enrolments. Could you give us, similar to what we have asked Mr Barnes, the outcomes and any comments you might have on the reasons people drop out, which we might be able to highlight make some comment on?”

- Between 2010 and 2014, TAFE NSW Aboriginal student enrolments increased by 8.4 per cent, from 34,597 to 37,505. There is a trend towards enrolments in higher level nationally recognised qualifications. Enrolments by Aboriginal students increased in Australian Qualification Framework:

Certificate III level and above

- from 10,123 in 2010 to 15,943 in 2014 (57.5 per cent)
- from 29.3 per cent of Aboriginal student enrolments in 2010 to 42.5 per cent in 2014

Diploma level and above

- from 1,215 in 2010 to 3,603 in 2014 (196.5 per cent)
- from 3.5 per cent of Aboriginal student enrolments in 2010 to 9.6 per cent of enrolments in 2014

- The trend towards enrolling in higher level qualifications was particularly evident in the 15 to 24 year student age group. Over the five year period to 2014, TAFE NSW Aboriginal enrolments by students in the 15 to 24 year age group increased by:
 - 60.6 per cent in qualifications at Certificate III and above
 - 244.7 per cent in qualifications at Diploma and above.
- Between 2009 and 2013, course completions in TAFE NSW by Aboriginal students increased by 47%, and particularly in higher level qualifications:
 - Certificate III and above increased by 59.9 per cent
 - Diploma and above increased by 167.3 per cent.

- Reasons for Aboriginal student ‘dropouts’ cover a wide range of social, economic, cultural, and wellbeing issues. These reasons include, but are not limited to:
 - Low levels of literacy, numeracy and English language proficiency
 - Chronic health issues
 - Child care
 - Lack of public transport infrastructure
 - Course suitability
 - Poor teacher relationships
 - Racism
 - Drug and Alcohol
 - Child Care
 - Mental Health
 - Incarceration
 - Employment (secures a job)
 - Domestic violence
 - Motivation

TABLE ONE: TAFE NSW Aboriginal Enrolments 2010 to 2014

Enrolments	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2010 - 2014 %
Aboriginal students	34,597	34,098	36,262	36,963	37,505	8.4
Aboriginal Students at AQF Certificate II and III	13,314	14,471	15,269	15,904	16,374	23.0
Aboriginal Students at AQF Certificate III and above	10,123	11,551	12,617	14,361	15,943	57.5
Aboriginal Students at AQF Certificate IV to Advanced Diploma	3,886	4,463	5,357	6,082	7,389	90.1
Aboriginal students at Diploma and above	1,215	1,480	1,940	2,405	3,603	196.5

Source: NCVET VOCSTATS