

2018-19 Budget Estimates

Volume of Additional Information

Education, Employment, Small Business Committee
August 2018

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MINUTES



Objective ID: A333050

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 1

Monday 11 June 2018, 12:15pm

Committee Room 3, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe

Present	Ms Leanne Linard MP, Chair Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Deputy Chair Mr Bruce Saunders MP Mrs Simone Wilson MP Mr Michael Healy MP Mr Nick Dametto MP
Apologies	Nil
In attendance	Ms Lucy Manderson, Committee Secretary Ms Erin Jameson, Inquiry Secretary Ms Maureen Coorey, Assistant Committee Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting commenced at 12:15 pm.

2. Members Estimates Manual

Printed copies of the Members Estimates Manual had been circulated.

3. Procedural matters and proposed resolutions

The committee considered procedural matters and proposed resolutions that had been circulated.

3.1 Leave to ask questions

Resolved

That non-committee members who make a written request to attend and ask questions during the committee's estimates hearing, are given leave to do so.

Moved: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

Seconded: Mr Michael Healy MP

3.2 Opening statement

Resolved

That each Minister may make a brief opening statement of up to five minutes at the beginning of the Minister's examination.

Moved: Mr Michael Healy MP

Seconded: Mrs Simone Wilson MP

3.3 Ancillary materials

Resolved

The committee agrees to allow witnesses to use ancillary materials at the public hearing, subject to the following:

- the materials should not be used as a prop, or be of a size or nature which could create safety or security issues
- information depicted in the materials should also be presented in documentary or other acceptable form that can be tabled, and
- advice about the type of ancillary material to be used must be provided to the committee's secretariat no later than Friday 27 July 2018, to enable the committee to assess its compliance with guidelines.

Moved: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

Seconded: Mr Nick Dametto MP

3.4 Camera operator rules

Resolved

That the guidelines for camera operators, as adopted by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly on 21 May 2015, will apply for the committee's Estimates hearing.

Moved: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

Seconded: Mr Michael Healy MP

3.5 Volume of additional information

Resolved

The committee agrees that the volume of additional information tabled with its report will contain:

- copies of the signed minutes of estimates meetings
- correspondence about replacement Members and requests for leave to attend and ask questions
- pre-hearing questions on notice and answers to questions on notice
- questions on notice and answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing, and any supplementary material provided by Ministers
- documents tabled at the hearing, and
- corrections to the budget papers.

Moved: Mr Michael Healy MP

Seconded: Mrs Simone Wilson MP

4. Draft inquiry timetable

The draft inquiry timetable had been circulated.

Members noted the Estimates hearing date for the committee as 2 August 2018 and the reporting date as 17 August 2018, as established by motion of the House.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee approve the draft inquiry timetable, subject to the Estimates hearing times being amended to reflect the final hearing program adopted by the committee.

Date	Time	Process
Monday 11 June	Following EESBC meeting	Initial Estimates committee meeting
Tuesday 12 June		Appropriation Bill introduced Budget papers tabled by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer
Thursday 14 June	To be decided by the committee	Adoption of Estimates hearing program
Wednesday 11 July	10:00am	Committee members to provide questions on notice to committee secretary; to be put to Ministers <i>[Standing Order 182(1) & 182(2)]</i>
Wednesday 1 August	10:00am	Deadline for Ministers to provide answers to questions on notice to committee secretariat <i>[Standing Order 182(3)]</i>
Thursday 2 August	8:30am	Committee pre-hearing meeting – Room A.35
Thursday 2 August	9:00am – 5:00pm	Estimates hearing – Legislative Council Chamber
Monday 6 August	5:00pm	Deadline for provision of answers to questions taken on notice (at hearing) by Ministers <i>[Standing Order 183(3)(b)]</i>
Monday 13 August	10:00am	Teleconference meeting to consider the chair's draft Estimates report.
Tuesday 14 August	24hrs after report adoption	Deadline for any statement of reservation or dissenting report to be provided to committee secretary <i>[Standing Order 187(3)]</i>
Wednesday 14 August		Public Holiday - Brisbane
Friday 17 August	COB	Report and volume of additional information tabled in Legislative Assembly <i>[Standing Order 189]</i>

Moved: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

Seconded: Mr Michael Healy MP

5. Draft hearing program

A working draft hearing program and organisational charts for the Department of Education, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training had been circulated.

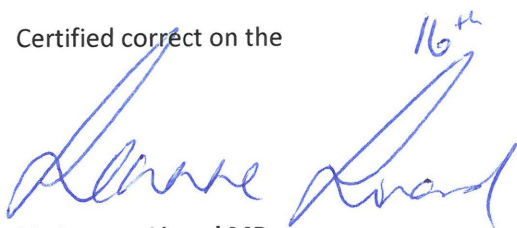
The committee agreed to consider the draft hearing program at a private meeting on Thursday 14 June 2018 at 3:00pm.

6. Next meeting

The next Estimates meeting is on Thursday 14 June 2018 at 3:00pm.

Close The meeting closed at **12:25pm**.

Certified correct on the ^{16th} day of ^{August} 2018



Ms Leanne Linard MP

Chair

MINUTES



Objective ID: A334500

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 2

Thursday 14 June 2018, 3:05pm

Room 5.04, Level 5, Parliamentary Annexe

Present

Ms Leanne Linard MP, Chair
Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Bruce Saunders MP
Mrs Simone Wilson MP
Mr Michael Healy MP
Mr Nick Dametto MP

Apologies Nil

In attendance Ms Lucy Manderson, Committee Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting commenced at 3:05pm.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 11 June 2018 had been circulated.

A typographical error was identified for correction.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 11 June 2018, as amended, are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Mr Michael Healy MP

Seconded: Mr Nick Dametto MP

3. Portfolio background information

The committee noted the following information, which had been circulated:

- Extracts from the *Administrative Arrangements Order (No. 4) 2017*
- Organisational chart – Department of Environment and Science
- Estimates witness list – Directors-General (D-Gs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of portfolio entities.

4. Estimates hearing procedures

The committee noted general information on Estimates hearing procedures, as outlined in the Standing Orders and Members Estimates Manual.

5. Next meeting

The draft hearing program for Estimates was circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

The committee agreed to:

- amend the draft hearing program to
 - reduce the committee's lunch break by 30 minutes, to run from 1.30pm to 2.00pm, and
 - add 15 minutes each to the time set aside for consideration of the education portfolio area and the industrial relations portfolio area, and
- approve the program as amended.

Area of Responsibility	Minister	Time
Education	Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations Department of Education Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority	9.00am – 10.30am
Break – Morning Tea		10.30am – 10.45am
Education	Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations Department of Education Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority	10.45am – 12.30pm
Industrial Relations	Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations Department of Education (Office of Industrial Relations)	12.30pm – 1.30pm
Break – Lunch		1.30pm – 2.00pm
Employment and Small Business	Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development Department of Employment, Small Business and Training Department of Environment and Science (Protected area management on Moreton Island and North Stradbroke Island)	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Break – Afternoon Tea		3.30pm – 3.45pm
Training and Skills Development	Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development Department of Employment, Small Business and Training TAFE Queensland	3.45pm – 5.00pm

Moved: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

Seconded: Mrs Simone Wilson MP

6. Next meeting

The next Estimates meeting is on Thursday 2 August 2018 at 8.30am in room A.35, Parliament House, prior to scheduled commencement of the committee's Estimates public hearing at 9.00am.

Close The meeting closed at **3:26pm**.

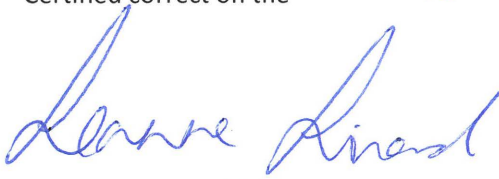
Certified correct on the

16th

day of

August.

2018



Ms Leanne Linard MP

Chair

MINUTES



Objective ID: A333135

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 3

Thursday 2 August 2018, 8:37am

Room A.35, Parliament House

Present

Ms Leanne Linard MP, Chair
Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Deputy Chair
Mr Bruce Saunders MP
Mrs Simone Wilson MP
Mr Michael Healy MP
Mr Nick Dametto MP

Apologies

Nil

In attendance

Ms Lucy Manderson, Committee Secretary
Ms Erin Jameson, Inquiry Secretary
Ms Maureen Coorey, Assistant Committee Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting commenced at **8:37am**.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 14 June 2018 had been circulated.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

Seconded: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

3. Correspondence

The committee noted correspondence received from non-committee members seeking leave for the following members to attend and ask questions during the Estimates hearing on 2 August 2018:

- Mrs Deb Frecklington, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Nanango
- Mr Tim Mander, Member for Everton
- Mr Jarrod Bleijie, Member for Kawana
- Ms Fiona Simpson, Member for Maroochydore
- Ms Sandy Bolton, Member for Noosa
- Mr Stephen Andrew, Member for Mirani, and
- Mr Michael Berkman, Member for Maiwar.

4. Answers to pre-hearing questions on notice

The committee noted the answers to pre-hearing Questions on Notice received from:

- the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, and
- the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.

The committee noted that Standing Order 181(e) provides that the answers to pre-hearing questions on notice are deemed to be authorised for release by the portfolio committee and published upon the commencement of the committee's hearing, unless the committee expressly orders otherwise.

5. Folder of estimates information

Members' folders of estimates information had been circulated.

The committee noted the folders.

6. Estimates hearing procedures

The Chair outlined procedural arrangements for the public hearing.

Discussion ensued.

7. Next meeting

The next Estimates meeting will be held at 10.00am on Monday 13 August 2018, via teleconference.

Close The meeting closed at **8:47am**.

Certified correct on the

16th

day of

August -

2018



Ms Leanne Linard MP

Chair

MINUTES



Objective ID: A350725

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Estimates Meeting No. 4

Monday 13 August 2018, 10:01am

Room 5.05, Level 5, Parliamentary Annexe and via teleconference

Present	Ms Leanne Linard MP, Chair Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Deputy Chair Mr Bruce Saunders MP Mrs Simone Wilson MP Mr Michael Healy MP Mr Nick Dametto MP
Apologies	Nil
In attendance	Ms Lucy Manderson, Committee Secretary Ms Erin Jameson, Inquiry Secretary Ms Maureen Coorey, Assistant Committee Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting commenced at **10:01am**.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 2 August 2018 had been circulated.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Estimates meeting held on 2 August 2018 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

Seconded: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

3. Publication of response to question on notice

Resolved

That the committee authorises the publication of the response received from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations on 6 August 2018 to the question taken on notice at the Estimates hearing on 2 August 2018.

Moved: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

Seconded: Mr Michael Healy MP

4. Tabled document

A document tabled by the Member for Kawana at 12:35pm during the Estimates hearing on 2 August 2018 had been circulated with proposed redactions for publishing.

Resolved

That the committee redacts the document tabled by Mr Bleijie MP during the Estimates hearing on 2 August 2018 to remove the name and contact details of the departmental officer and two instances of unparliamentary language, and authorise the publication of the redacted version of the document.

Moved: Mrs Simone Wilson MP

Seconded: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

5. Draft report

The Chair's draft *Report No. 5, 56th Parliament – 2018-19 Budget Estimates* had been circulated.

Discussion ensued.

Resolved

That the committee adopts the Chair's draft Report no. 5 as the report of the committee and authorises its tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

Moved: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

Seconded: Mr Nick Dametto MP

6. Volume of additional information

Resolved

That the committee table with the Estimates Report, a file titled 'Volume of Additional Information' which will contain:

- the minutes of each Estimates committee meeting
- correspondence received from non-committee members seeking leave to attend and ask questions at the Estimates hearing
- questions on notice and answers to those questions, and
- documents tabled at the Estimates hearing.

Moved: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP

Seconded: Mr Michael Healy MP

7. Statement of reservation or dissenting report

The committee noted that the deadline for providing a statement of reservation or dissenting report is 10:00am on Tuesday 14 August 2018.

8. Authorisation of minutes

Resolved

That in order for the minutes of today's meeting to be tabled with the report as per Standing Order 189, the committee authorises that the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair, confirm the minutes of this meeting.

Moved: Mrs Simone Wilson MP

Seconded: Mr Bruce Saunders MP

Close

The meeting closed at **10:13am**.

Certified correct on the

16th

day of

August

2018

Ms Leanne Linard MP

Chair

**Questions on notice and responses –
Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations**

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 6 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to additional facilities in state secondary schools, could the Minister outline what the Government is doing to prepare high schools for 2020 when the first full cohort of students across the six year levels will occur?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has boosted funding for this program with an additional \$250 million, bringing the total spend to \$292.2 million, allocated over two years to build extra classrooms and educational infrastructure in over 60 state secondary schools across Queensland in readiness for 2020.

With the original Prep students set to graduate from high school at the end of 2019, for the very first time there will be six full year level cohorts of secondary students in Queensland state high schools from the beginning of the 2020 school year.

The funding boost is positioning state high schools across Queensland to be ready to accommodate the anticipated 17,000 extra students for the 2020 school year. The '2020 Ready' program will see additional classrooms and learning centres built in some of our most highly utilised high schools across Queensland.

The 2020 Ready program will deliver 70 projects at 61 schools as follows.

School name	Electorate
Coolum State High School (2 projects)	Ninderry
Dalby State High School	Warrego
Flagstone State Community College (2 projects)	Jordon
Gladstone State High School	Gladstone
Harristown State High School (2 projects)	Toowoomba South
Highfields State Secondary College (2 projects)	Toowoomba North
Mansfield State High School (2 projects)	Mansfield
Mountain Creek State High School	Buderim
Murrumba State Secondary College (2 projects)	Murrumba
Southport State High School	Bonney

School name	Electorate
Bremer State High School	Ipswich
Brisbane State High School	South Brisbane
Cairns State High School	Cairns
Helensvale State High School	Theodore
Ipswich State High School	Ipswich West
Kelvin Grove State College	McConnel
Mackay Northern Beaches State High School	Whitsunday
Meridan State College	Kawana
North Lakes State College	Bancroft
Ormeau Woods State High School	Coomera
Pimpama State Secondary College	Coomera
Springfield Central State High School	Jordan
The Gap State High School	Cooper
Varsity College	Mermaid Beach
Wynnum State High School	Lytton
Albany Creek State High School	Everton
Alexandra Hills State High School	Capalaba
Beenleigh State High School	Macalister
Bribie Island State High School	Pumicestone
Caboolture State High School	Morayfield
Cavendish Road State High School	Greenslopes
Centenary Heights State High School	Toowoomba South
Centenary State High School	Mount Ommaney
Chancellor State College	Buderim
Cleveland District State High School	Oodgeroo
Ferny Grove State High School	Ferny Grove
Forest Lake State High School	Inala
Glenala State High School	Inala
Indooroopilly State High School	Maiwar
James Nash State High School	Gympie
Kawana Waters State College	Kawana
Kedron State High School	Clayfield
Laidley State High School	Lockyer
Lowood State High School	Lockyer
Mansfield State High School	Mansfield
Maroochydore State High School	Maroochydore
Marsden State High School	Waterford
Mount Gravatt State High School	Greenslopes
Mountain Creek State High School	Buderim

School name	Electorate
Northern Beaches State High School	Hinchinbrook
Pacific Pines State High School	Gaven
Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School	Burleigh
Park Ridge State High School	Logan
Pimlico State High School	Townsville
Proserpine State High School	Whitsunday
Rochedale State High School	Mansfield
Southport State High School	Bonney
Stretton State College	Stretton
Sunshine Beach State High School	Noosa
Tamborine Mountain State High School	Scenic Rim
Toolooa State High School	Gladstone
Trinity Bay State High School	Cairns
Windaroo Valley State High School	Macalister
Yeppoon State High School	Keppel

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 6 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to the \$235 million four-year Renewing our Schools program, could the Minister provide an update on progress for the 17 schools which will be enhanced and upgraded under this program?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government committed to investing \$235 million over four years from 2018–19 in the Renewing our Schools program.

The program will deliver school infrastructure upgrades and refurbishments to 17 schools, focused on improving school learning facilities.

In Term 2, 2018, planning work commenced for the program, which includes school visits, discussions with school principals regarding the potential scope of works, and the commencement of some initial concept planning work.

The 17 schools funded under the program are listed below:

School name	Electorate
Aspley State High School	Aspley
Bundaberg State High School	Bundaberg
Cairns State High School	Cairns
Corinda State High School	Mount Ommaney
Everton Park State High School	Everton
Ferny Grove State High School	Ferny Grove
Heatley Secondary College	Thuringowa
Indooroopilly State High School	Maiwar
Mansfield State High School	Mansfield
Maryborough State High School	Maryborough
Mitchelton State High School	Ferny Grove
Proserpine State High School	Whitsunday
Sarina State High School	Mirani
Springwood State High School	Springwood
Toowoomba State High School	Toowoomba North
Tropical North Learning Academy – Trinity Beach State School	Barron River
Tropical North Learning Academy – Smithfield State High School	Barron River

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 6 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to the Government employing more than 1,000 teachers as part of a four-year commitment, can the Minister advise how many additional teachers and teacher aides are being employed in Queensland state schools in the 2018 school year?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to a world class education for every child and supporting quality teachers in every school. Over the next four years the Government has committed \$1 billion from existing funding to employ an additional 3700 extra teachers.

In 2018–19, the Department of Education will employ an additional 1000 teachers as part of this commitment to employ the additional teachers required to support enrolment growth across the state.

As at Quarter 1, 2018 the state school teaching workforce has grown by 1354.27 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers over Quarter 1 2017, including the final tranche of 295 teacher FTEs under the Palaszczuk Government's 875 Extra Teachers initiative. Every state primary, secondary, combined and special school benefited through the allocation of these additional teacher numbers.

In addition to teacher growth, for the same period the teacher aide workforce has grown by 320.36 teacher aide FTEs, including the additional 4000 hours per week allocated under the Government's commitment to support full-time teacher aides for Prep classes in state schools.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 6 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to the Government investing \$14.4 m over four years to employ additional instrumental music teachers, can the Minister advise how this money will raise the profile of instrumental music across the state?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to creating a world class education for Queensland students. A total of \$14.4 million will be invested over four years for:

- an additional 45 full-time equivalent (FTE) instrumental music teachers/instructors;
- \$1 million for additional musical instruments for schools; and
- flow-on funding to non-state schools as part of the basket-nexus funding arrangements.

Employing additional instrumental music teachers/instructors and providing musical instruments will engage more students in the Arts, especially students in regional and remote areas.

More students participating in the Queensland Instrumental Music Program will raise the profile of instrumental music across the state.

The number of FTE instrumental music teachers/instructors in state schools will increase from 335.1 to 380.1 over three school years from 2019. This will provide access to the program for a greater number of students in all regions.

The Queensland Instrumental Music Program was initiated in primary and secondary schools in 1971 and has since continued to expand and develop across Queensland.

The program provides comprehensive tuition in which students learn orchestral or band instruments in small groups and larger ensembles.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
(HON GRACE GRACE MP) —

QUESTION:

In relation to page 6 of the Department of Education SDS, can the Minister advise on how the Ready Reading Program will support greater literacy engagement for Queensland students?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government wants all young Queenslanders to value reading and gain the lifelong benefits of being effective readers.

Students' engagement in frequent shared reading activities, with positive adult support, can have long-lasting benefits for later school success.

We also know that research on parent involvement in their children's reading skills suggests clear links from home reading experiences, through early literacy skills, to fluent reading.

That is why the Palaszczuk Government will be investing \$1.6 million over three years in the Queensland Ready Reading (QRR) volunteer program, as part of our plan to improve literacy and numeracy for every child, including a focus on *Closing the Gap on Year 3 reading*.

The QRR is designed to enhance current classroom reading programs, which will provide children with additional positive reading experiences, enabling them to engage in reading more regularly.

Up to 3000 parents, caregivers and community members will be trained by experienced staff at the Reading Centre (within the Department of Education) as Ready Reading volunteers in schools to build their confidence in supporting children's engagement in reading.

A major benefit of the QRR program is that every parent, caregiver and community member trained will be a potential volunteer to support reading engagement in local schools.

The QRR program has the capacity to increase frequency of book reading in the community and will also improve the percentage of babies and young children being read to at home as a foundation for engagement in reading and later literacy success.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 3 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to delivering quality early years education and care, can the Minister advise on measures the Government is taking to support a highly skilled and capable early childhood workforce?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting our workforce of highly skilled and capable early childhood teachers and educators to give all Queensland children a great start in life.

A highly skilled and professional workforce is essential to achieve the best outcomes for children. I acknowledge the important role early childhood education and care staff undertake each and every day working with children and families to make a difference in the critical early years.

The Queensland Government is continuing to implement the Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Action Plan 2016–19 (ECEC WAP) to support a professional, qualified and skilled early childhood workforce in Queensland, backed by a joint Queensland Government investment of up to \$80 million between the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and the Department of Education.

The key initiatives delivered under the ECEC WAP since 2016 include:

- the Certificate III Guarantee and Higher Level Skills Programs, providing over 19,000 subsidies to support existing and aspiring educators to gain Diploma and Certificate III early childhood qualifications;
- the Early Childhood Bridging Teacher Program providing subsidies which have supported 125 eligible primary teachers to fast track their career and gain approved early childhood teaching qualifications;
- an Early Childhood Teaching Scholarship Program for up to 40 rural and remote educators to address workforce shortages;
- study support programs through the Indigenous Remote Support Coordination and Growing Our Own Program for more than 240 rural and remote early childhood educators;
- age-appropriate pedagogies supporting primary school teachers to enhance their teaching approaches and practice in the early years; and
- expanding the Remote Area Teacher Education Program in six remote communities to enable 58 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators to undertake early childhood qualifications in their home communities.

In partnership with the early childhood sector, the Palaszczuk Government is helping to build an early childhood workforce that has the qualifications, skills and support to provide the very best services for all Queensland children and families.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 10 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to the five-yearly review of the operation of the workers' compensation scheme under the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*, can the Minister outline the key recommendations made by the independent reviewer in relation to the scheme?

ANSWER:

The terms of reference for the review were focused on ensuring the workers' compensation scheme is well placed to respond to emerging issues.

The review found the scheme is performing well, is financially sound, involves low costs for employers and provides fair treatment for both employers and injured workers.

Major scheme reform is not recommended; however, a number of opportunities were identified to improve the process and experience for injured workers.

The report made 57 recommendations, with key recommendations focusing on:

- protecting vulnerable workers employed within the rapidly expanding gig economy to ensure they are not unreasonably denied access to workers' compensation benefits and that a consistent approach is adopted for persons working in the gig economy;
- supporting workers with a psychological or psychiatric injury by providing early intervention in order to minimise the severity, duration and recurrence of psychological illness and taking a best practice approach to the management of these complex claims;
- improving return to work outcomes by extending obligations to provide access to an accredited return to work program to workers at the end of their statutory claim if they are fit for work but have no job to return to and providing greater support to rehabilitation and return to work coordinators at the workplace level; and
- providing greater assistance to small business through funding allied health professionals to undertake onsite job task assessments to assist those businesses having difficulty in returning an injured worker to work.

The Queensland Government will consider these recommendations in the second half of 2018. As part of this process stakeholders will be consulted.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 10 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to overseeing the ongoing delivery of the legislative reforms and regulatory improvements to Queensland's industrial relations workplace health and safety and electrical safety systems, can the Minister advise what initiatives have been put in place to explore any required legislative and regulatory changes concerning the new and emerging solar and wind farm industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The use of renewable energies, such as solar and wind, are growing at a rapid rate. A significant number of large scale solar and wind farms are expected to be constructed in Queensland over the next decade.

A tripartite working group has been established to develop codes of practice and identify any associated regulatory changes required for the design, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of solar and wind farms.

Given the rapid growth of solar farms in Queensland and the safety and electrical risks associated with these farms, the Palaszczuk Government is prioritising the development of the solar farm code of practice.

The draft solar farm code of practice was released last week to the working group for their consideration and input.

The solar farm code of practice is expected to be finalised by the end of 2018.

Following finalisation of the solar farm code of practice, a similar process will be undertaken for wind farms.

I have also asked the Office of Industrial Relations to work closely with the Electrical Safety Commissioner and the Electrical Safety Board on the development of the codes of practice and regulatory changes.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 10 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to the implementation of the *Best Practice Review of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Final Report 2017*, can the Minister advise on the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained within the report?

ANSWER:

The Best Practice Review of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (the Best Practice Review), which was led by Mr Tim Lyons and supported by a tripartite reference group, was undertaken in response to the tragic fatalities at Dreamworld and an Eagle Farm construction site in 2016.

The Best Practice Review final report was provided to the Queensland Government in July 2017, making 58 recommendations, with the majority relating to operational improvements for either Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) or the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Board.

Over 90% of the Best Practice Review recommendations are either fully implemented or well advanced. The WHS Board is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and will continue to do so until completion.

Legislative amendments to work health and safety legislation were passed by the Queensland Parliament in October 2017, including:

- the introduction of a new offence of industrial manslaughter;
- the establishment of an independent statutory office for work health and safety prosecutions;
- the restoration of the status of codes of practice to require safety measures in codes to be followed unless measures of an equal or higher standard can be demonstrated; and
- provisions which support more effective health and safety representatives.

The Palaszczuk Government is also in the process of developing regulatory amendments to improve safety in theme parks and the amusement ride industry.

A large number of Best Practice Review recommendations designed to re-position WHSQ capability to more effectively regulate workplaces, have either been implemented, or are well advanced. The structural separation of the inspectorate and investigations functions, away from the corporate service, capacity building and engagement work of WHSQ, has been fully implemented and a new Executive Director, WHS Compliance and Field Services, has been appointed.

Recruitment and appointment processes for an independent WHS prosecutor are well advanced and the establishment of the independent Office of the WHS prosecutor will follow this appointment.

In order to support the improvements already implemented, the WHS Board is in the final stages of developing its Five-Year Strategic Plan for WHS in Queensland.

Other recommendations require longer-term development, planning and resource allocation, for example, the consolidation and upgrading of regulatory databases requiring the development and implementation of a new information and communication and technology system, are still in progress. Likewise, the skills development program for WHSQ inspectors is an incremental process which requires sustained focus over several years, as well as ongoing maintenance.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 10 of the Department of Education SDS and its reference to supporting fair and productive workplaces, can the Minister outline submissions the Government has made in support of low paid Queensland workers?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government will always advocate on behalf of Queensland's low paid workers, whether they are covered by the state industrial relations jurisdiction or the national workplace relations system. This commitment has been demonstrated by the various submissions the Queensland Government has made in support of weekend penalty rates for low-paid workers who miss out on time with friends and family as they try to make ends meet. This commitment is also evident in submissions made by the Queensland Government to the Senate Inquiry into the Future of Work and Workers, and the Annual Wage Review (AWR). In both submissions particular regard was given to the protection of Queensland's low paid workers.

On 27 February 2018, the Queensland Government made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Future of Work and Workers where protection of vulnerable workers was identified as a matter of priority. In particular, the Queensland Government called for reform of the *Fair Work Act 2009* and other relevant legislation to more adequately accommodate emerging forms of non-traditional employment, including engagement within the gig economy, to ensure that the national workplace relations system protects vulnerable workers and remains fair and equitable for all working Australians.

In March 2018, the Queensland Government submission to the Fair Work Commission AWR advocated for an increase of \$27.10 per week in the national minimum wage (NMW) (equivalent to a 3.9% increase) and a fair and reasonable increase to all other award rates of pay.

In support of its claim, Queensland's submission argued that minimum and award wage increases directly target and benefit those employees who are unable to negotiate wage increases through enterprise bargaining and that increases awarded through the AWR help to ensure workers with little or no bargaining power are not left behind.

On 1 June 2018, the Fair Work Commission handed down an increase of 3.5% to the NMW and award rates of pay in the AWR. In dollar terms, this means an increase of \$24.32 a week, lifting the national minimum wage to \$719.22 a week or \$18.29 an hour. This will provide a much-needed real wage increase for almost half a million low-paid private sector workers in Queensland.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION

With reference to page 17 of the SDS regarding the Departmental budget summary and Question on Notice 197 asked on 8 March 2018, can the Minister provide an update on funding allocations for the State Government's Chaplaincy/Student Welfare Program for 2018/19 and 2019/20, reported separately by year, given the Australian Government has just recently announced a four-year funding extension to the National School Chaplaincy Programme?

ANSWER:

On 25 July 2018, Senator the Honourable Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, advised Queensland of its proposed renewal of the Australian Government's National School Chaplaincy Programme from 2018–19 to 2021–22.

Indicative Australian Government funding for Queensland under this over four years is \$73.4 million, consisting of \$18.35 million each year from 2018–19 to 2021–22.

The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government to finalise a new project agreement by early October 2018 to allow continuation of the program.

The final details of the funding arrangements will not be known until negotiations with the Australian Government are completed later this year.

The Palaszczuk Government has allocated \$12.66 million in additional chaplaincy and student welfare worker funding to address the shortfall in the Australian Government's National School Chaplaincy Programme funding across 2015–18 to ensure that schools can maintain levels of service.

In addition, under the State Government Chaplaincy/Student Welfare Funding Program that has been in place since 2007, annual funding of \$1.129 million will be provided to 147 state schools over the 2018–19 and 2019–20 financial years.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 21 of the SDS regarding staffing, can the Minister provide a gender breakdown of primary school teachers employed by Education Queensland as at 30 June 2018 and also the total number of new primary school teachers employed by Education Queensland in 2017/18, reported separately by gender?

ANSWER:

As at Quarter 1 2018, the Department of Education employed 26,904 teachers in primary schools with the gender breakdown shown in the table below:

Male	Female
3,946	22,958

During the 2017–18 financial year, the department appointed 3,562 primary school teachers, including both graduate and experienced teachers, the below table indicates the gender breakdown:

Male	Female
492	3,070

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS regarding Prep as part of School Education, can the Minister outline:

- a) the number of day 8 prep enrolments (reported separately by region) for 2018;
- b) the forecast prep enrolments (reported separately by region) that were expected for 2018;
- c) whether any audits have been undertaken in relation to the age students attending Prep in 2018; and
- d) in relation to c) above, the results of those audits and the number of students who were attending Prep in 2018 that have had to cancel their enrolment?

ANSWER:

The table below outlines the forecast and actual headcount for Prep enrolments separated by region:

2018 State School prep year enrolments by region	Forecast	Actual
Central Queensland	4191	3994
Darling Downs South West	3560	3487
Far North Queensland	3030	2672
Metropolitan	14,014	14,402
North Coast	9748	9461
North Queensland	3029	2794
South East Queensland	10,700	10,372
Queensland total	48,272	47,182

Source: Actual enrolment data – Department of Education, Queensland Government. February Corporate Enrolment Collection, 2018.

Forecast enrolment data – Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Government. Enrolment Forecasts, 2017 Edition.

Note – Day 8 enrolment data is based on Full-Time Equivalent Counts (FTE) and not headcount. For comparative purposes with QGSO forecast headcount data, February enrolment headcount data has been used in the table above.

Data excludes special schools and schools of distance education.

The Department of Education collects and analyses data annually on the age of students who are enrolled in Prep in state schools to ensure that legislative requirements regarding Prep eligibility are met. Where there are inconsistencies in the enrolment data, the department seeks advice from the relevant schools.

The analysis identified four students who were incorrectly enrolled.

Changes to OneSchool, the department's information technology system, are being progressed to provide additional safeguards so that if all eligibility criteria are not met, the details will not save in OneSchool and the enrolment process will end.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 20 of the SDS regarding the Capital budget and land purchases, can the Minister outline whether any acquisitions were required as part of land purchases for the planning of new schools in 2017/18 or 2018/19 and the budget for any acquisitions required (reported separately per school)?

ANSWER:

New schools are planned over multiple years and land acquisition occurs as part of the investment planning for new schools.

In 2018, the Department of Education opened four new schools: Yarrabilba State School, Picnic Creek State School, Baringa State School and North Shore State School.

Land acquisition for these schools occurred prior to construction processes commencing in 2016.

The department is opening one new school at Springfield in 2019 and the land acquisition for this school occurred in 2016.

The 2018–19 State Budget includes a budget allocation of \$31.2 million to support strategic land acquisition, land for new schools and augmentation of existing schools that require additional land to meet enrolment growth.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to opening eight new schools in 2020 to meet enrolment demand. Land acquisition prior to 2018–19 has already been undertaken or is in progress for new schools as detailed below:

New school	Land acquisition status
Primary school in Ripley	Transfer at nil cost in progress under Priority Development Area provisions.
Secondary school in Ripley	Transfer at nil cost in progress under Priority Development Area provisions.
Secondary school in Calliope	Site owned.
Secondary school in Coomera/Pimpama	Site options being progressed.
Secondary school in Yarrabilba	Transfer at nil cost in progress under Priority Development Area provisions.
Secondary school in Fortitude Valley	Site owned. Additional land acquired at 25 Green Square Close to augment existing site – \$15 million.
Secondary school in North Lakes/Mango Hill	Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy progressing acquisition on behalf of the Department of Education.
Special school in Caboolture	Site owned.

The capital allocation for land acquisition supports land acquisitions throughout the year to meet departmental needs. The department will continue to progress appropriate land acquisitions as required to meet future schooling needs. The budget allocations for specific sites are commercial-in-confidence until settlement has occurred.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With respect to page 15 of the SDS regarding recurrent funding for non-state schools, can the Minister outline the reasons for the \$4.854 million reduction in total assistance in 2018/19, compared with the 2017/18 adjusted budget?

ANSWER:

Total recurrent funding for non-state schools incorporates general recurrent funding, grammar school endowments and school transport.

Since 2013, non-state schools have also received funding to support the five-year \$98 million Building Teacher Capacity Program. The final payment under the program of \$30.4 million was provided to non-state schools in 2017–18.

All sectors were aware that this funding was for five years and also aware that it has now expired.

The program has been replaced by the Advancing Teaching and Learning (ATL) program. Funding of \$7 million has been allocated for the ATL program in 2018–19.

With these stand-alone programs excluded, the general recurrent grant funding for non-state schools has increased by approximately \$18.4 million in 2018–19.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With respect to page 22 of the SDS and the total expenses chart across the forward estimates, can the Minister outline:

- a) the forecast expenditure for the Instrumental Music Program, reported separately for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- b) the forecast expenditure for the Teaching Queensland's Future program, reported separately for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- c) the forecast expenditure for anticipated student growth and enterprise bargaining outcomes, reported separately for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- d) the forecast expenditure for the Review of School Administrative and Support Staff, reported separately for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22; and
- e) the forecast expenditure as a result of the Australian Government's Quality Schools program, reported separately for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22?

ANSWER:

The forecast expenditure for controlled expenses across the Department of Education's forward estimates is as follows.

Forecast Expenditure	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Additional Instrumental Music Program allocations	\$2.618m	\$4.314m	\$5.040m
Teaching Queensland's Future initiative	\$29m	\$29m	n/a
Enrolment growth and enterprise bargaining outcomes, using 2018–19 as the base year	\$326.086m	\$669.537m	\$931.778m
Review of School Administrative and Support Staff	\$31.530m	\$32.318m	\$33.126m
Australian Government's Quality Schools program	\$1.821b	\$1.977b	\$2.117b

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 17 of the SDS and specifically the \$43.982 million reduction in funding for Early Childhood Education and Care between the adjusted budget for 2017/18 and the budget for 2018/19, can the Minister outline the specific details of this reduction and the impact on services provided in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The difference between the 2017–18 and 2018–19 budget is largely due to the structure of the Australian Government's National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education and the delayed negotiations by the Australian Government on the continuation of this agreement.

On average, each year since 2012–13, the department has had to defer approximately 19% of its original budget to the next financial year because of the way the Australian Government has structured the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education. This has again been required between the 2017–18 and 2018–19 financial years.

The structure of the agreement means payments are not aligned to the calendar year in which programs are delivered, therefore the department must rephrase the payments to ensure the budget aligns with when payments to kindergarten services need to be made.

To remove any doubt, Queenslanders can have confidence they will continue to benefit from the same early childhood education and care service delivery levels as in previous years. This is demonstrated by the fact that the Department of Education's 2018–19 budget for early childhood is \$18.867 million higher than the 2017–18 estimated actual spend.

The Australian Government has a track record of walking away from its commitments in early childhood without notice and without consultation. Queensland has already picked up the Australian Government's tab by: funding Children and Family Centres; covering shortfalls in universal access funding; and is currently exploring how we will ensure all approved early childhood services offer quality, safe programs following cessation of the National Partnership on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care. There have also been five successive short-term agreements of the National Partnership Agreement for Universal Access to Early Childhood Education with the Australian Government now proposing a further short-term agreement, and still no funding commitment beyond 2019.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

With respect to page 10 of the SDS regarding the regulation of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ), can the Minister outline:

- the number of amusement rides registered in Queensland in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (reported separately by year);
- the number of amusement ride registrations that lapsed and were renewed in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (reported separately by year); and
- the number of amusement ride registrations that lapsed and were not renewed in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

	2015	2016	2017
The number of amusement rides registered* in Queensland in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (reported separately by year)	582	626	655
The number of amusement ride registrations that lapsed and were renewed in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (reported separately by year) are:	25 (4% of registered amusement devices)	4 (less than 1% of registered amusement devices)	6 (less than 1% of registered amusement devices)
The number of amusement ride registrations that lapsed and were not renewed in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (reported separately by year) are**:	28 (5% of amusement devices registered in 2014)	42 (7% of amusement devices registered in 2015)	55 (9% of amusement devices registered in 2016)

*The number of items of plant registered can vary throughout the registration period as new items are registered or an item of plant no longer requires registration in Queensland, for example, the item of plant is decommissioned or relocated interstate. The registration period is from 1 February to 31 January the following year. The number of amusement devices specified above reflects the number of amusement devices registered throughout the registration period, for example, from 1 February 2015 to 31 January 2016.

**These numbers are not indicative of non-compliance with item registration requirements. Amusement devices may have been decommissioned, sold or require a major inspection to be undertaken. It should also be noted that from 2017 these amusement devices were included in a physical audit program focused on ensuring that unregistered plant items including amusement devices and cranes were not in operation.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to independent public schools, is the Government aware of any recruitment practices by those schools that could diminish the value of the rural credit point scheme where public school teachers are given additional credit for spending a period of time in remote areas?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring that the statewide teacher transfer system continues to deliver the workforce required right across Queensland.

All schools have a role to play in supporting the teacher transfer system, including independent public schools (IPS).

The department's *Independent Public Schools Policy Framework* clearly reaffirms the obligations on IPS principals to operate in line with the same legislation, industrial agreements, rulings and whole-of-Government policies as any other school or public service entity.

IPS participation in the annual teacher transfer process operates at similar levels to before schools became an IPS. Both IPS and non-IPS principals take into account accumulated teacher transfer points and the individual teacher's capability and experience when making a decision to appoint a teacher on transfer.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2018 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

Does the Government intend on implementing any programs or initiatives in public or non-public schools in Queensland where children are taught that there are more genders than male and female?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing safe, supportive and inclusive environments for all students.

Gender identity is included in the Prep to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, and this concept is described in age appropriate ways.

The Department of Education's Prep to Year 12 Respectful Relationships Education Program, and Prep to Year 10 Curriculum into the Classroom materials provide resources to assist students to learn about gender identity.

The Queensland Government does not mandate the delivery of individual programs or the use of particular resources in state schools.

When dealing with contentious and sensitive topics such as gender identity, principals are encouraged to consult with their school communities to determine the best way to meet the needs of all students.

**Questions on notice and responses –
Minister for Employment and Small Business and
Minister for Training and Skills Development**

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

QUESTION:

I refer to page 3 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and note additional funding is being made available for Back to Work in areas of South East Queensland. Can you please outline the how Back to Work is continuing in SEQ and what supports are available for employers looking to put on an apprentice or trainee?

ANSWER:

In the 2018-19 budget our Government allocated an additional \$20.5 million for the Back to Work (BTW) program to continue in areas of South East Queensland (SEQ) that were continuing to experience challenging labour market conditions.

In identifying areas of SEQ where the program would continue consideration was given to a number of factors, such as broader economic conditions, connections to employment opportunities and regional employment growth. Based on this, it was determined that the BTW SEQ program would continue in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of: Logan; Scenic Rim; Ipswich; Lockyer Valley; Somerset; and Moreton Bay.

For these LGA's, payments under the BTW SEQ program continue to be available for eligible unemployed jobseekers including:

- Employer Support Payments of up to \$15,000 for a jobseeker previously unemployed for 52 weeks or more; and
- Youth Boost Payments of up to \$20,000 for a jobseeker previously unemployed for a minimum of four weeks and aged between 15-24 years.

For areas of SEQ that are no longer eligible for the BTW program, Queenslanders continue to be supported to access training opportunities that can lead to increased employment options. Employers not eligible for a Back to Work payment may still be eligible to obtain a First Start or Work Start incentive payment for hiring a new trainee or apprentice who had previously participated in a Skilling for Queenslanders for Work project. First Start or Work Start incentive payments for hiring a new trainee or apprentice who had previously participated in a Skilling for Queenslanders for Work project are still available to Employers across South East Queensland.

Under the Government's 2018-19 Annual VET Investment Plan over \$770 million has been allocated for initiatives like User Choice, the Certificate 3 Guarantee and *Skilling Queenslanders for Work*, all providing opportunities for training and skills development to support jobs.

Apprenticeships and traineeships are an important part of our State's economic growth and development of a skilled workforce. Under the current BTW program,

855 apprentices and trainees were eligible for payments under the BTW SEQ program.

To encourage and support apprenticeships and traineeships I recently met with industry groups and businesses at a series of apprenticeship roundtables to discuss their experiences in recruiting, training and retaining people in apprenticeships to ensure Queensland continues to develop the skilled workers needed now and in the future.

With Queensland recording the highest growth in apprenticeship commencements, the Palaszczuk Government's initiatives and programs are helping Queensland lead the nation in new apprenticeships and traineeships. There are a number of key activities that the Government has implemented to support both individuals seeking to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship, but also employers including:

- The Advancing Apprentices Fund of up to \$1 million, to partner with industry and employers to continue to promote and highlight the benefits of the apprenticeship pathway;
- Ensuring Year 12 graduates who commence a high priority apprenticeship or traineeship in the calendar year after finishing school can access fee-free training under the Year 12 Fee-free training initiative and User Choice program;
- Doubling the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees to make it more affordable for employers to hire an apprentice or trainee. This incentive will deliver up to \$45 million in payroll tax rebates for employers of apprentices and trainees. As at 30 June 2018, 2,747 businesses have had their payroll tax liability reduced, representing a net cost saving to industry of \$16,197,000;
- Encouraging employers to hire apprentices by driving down the cost of doing business through the WorkCover Queensland's premium and benefits package. Businesses hiring apprentices will benefit greatly, as they won't pay a cent for WorkCover Premiums on apprentices they hire; and
- \$3.25 million of funding under the 2018-19 Queensland Group Training Program to create additional apprenticeship opportunities for apprentices employed through group training organisations.

Our Government remains committed to supporting the growth of skilled Queenslanders to contribute to the economic prosperity of our State.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

QUESTION:

I refer to page 3 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and note the key objective of the Employment service area is to increase Queenslanders' participation in the labour market. What has been the recent experience of Queensland's participation rate in the labour market?

ANSWER:

More than 162,000 jobs have been created since the Palaszczuk Government was elected in January 2015.

The most recent labour market data release in June 2018 indicates that trend employment in Queensland rose 3,900 persons in June 2018, with a rise in part-time employment (up 5,500 persons) more than offsetting a fall in full-time employment (down 1,600 persons).

Over the year to June 2018, trend employment in Queensland was 2.6% (or 62,700 persons) higher. This increase was the result of rises in both full-time (up 39,900 persons) and part-time (up 22,800 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 6.1% in June 2018, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in May.

Queensland's trend participation rate was unchanged from May (at 65.8%). The participation rate has eased in recent months following a period of sustained increases (rising 1.7 percentage points since November 2016), consistent with strong employment growth encouraging more people to enter the labour market. Queensland's trend participation rate (65.8%) compares favourably with other states, only exceeded by Western Australia (68.6%).

The entry of jobseekers encouraged by greater opportunities has seen the participation rate rise sharply and the unemployment rate stabilise in the short-term.

The 2018–19 Budget notes that employment growth in Queensland has been stronger than expected in 2017–18, driven largely by health, construction, transport and education. While growth has eased in early 2018, the strong gains in late 2017 mean growth over the year to June quarter 2018 was 3.0%, higher than the budget forecast of 2.75%. Employment is expected to grow at more sustainable rates of 1.25% and 1.75% over the next two years.

The Government's top priority remains creating jobs for Queenslanders. To create the economic growth and job opportunities needed to support Queensland's growing population, the Government's economic plan includes a \$45.8 billion investment in productivity-enhancing capital works over the four years to 2021–22.

The Government's \$11.6 billion capital works program in 2018-19 is estimated to directly support more than 38,000 jobs in 2018–19, as well as support significant ongoing private sector investment and employment over the short, medium and longer term.

Ongoing and increased funding for key employment and training programs will help provide Queensland jobseekers with the skills and capabilities to access additional job opportunities and participate in the labour market. This includes:

- The \$369 million Back to Work program, which provides businesses with the confidence to employ jobseekers and as at 30 June 2018 has supported 7,093 businesses to hire 14,318 unemployed people; and
- The \$420 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which will support up to 54,000 Queenslanders into work through training and skills development over six years. Since the program's reintroduction in 2015 (up to 30 June 2018), more than 30,800 individuals have been assisted through tailored, community-based support.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

QUESTION:

I refer to page 5 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and note the key objective of the Small Business Services area is to support small businesses to manage and grow their business. What 2018–19 Budget measures deliver on this objective and will support small business confidence?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government recognises the significant contribution Queensland's approximately 426,000 small businesses make to our economy, and is committed to creating an environment that encourages them to start, grow and employ.

The 2018-19 Queensland Budget includes numerous measures that will support small businesses to manage and grow their business. Firstly, the Government will continue to implement the \$22.7 million *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-2020* to advocate, enable and empower small business owners to succeed. Under the Strategy, Queensland small businesses will continue to have access to grants, mentoring and other programs designed to help them succeed and achieve their growth aspirations.

The 2018-19 Queensland Budget is also supporting small businesses to grow by making it easier for them to employ. For instance, an additional \$26 million has been allocated to extend the Payroll Tax rebate for apprentices and trainees to 30 June 2019. The Government's Back to Work program has also been extended, with an additional \$20.5 million allocated to continuing the program in areas of South East Queensland with significant labour market challenges, and \$155 million to provide support across regional Queensland.

To assist manufacturing small to medium enterprises across the state to become more competitive internationally and increase their productivity, our Government has also allocated \$40 million under the Made in Queensland Grant Program. Under the program eligible businesses can access matched grants of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million for equipment and projects that assist them to become more productive, grow and create jobs.

With electricity costs currently posing a challenge for many small business owners, this Budget will help small businesses manage the costs associated with their energy use. An additional investment of \$3.94 million has been made to continue delivering the ecoBiz program in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, to support small and medium businesses to become more eco-efficient and reduce the cost of utility bills. The Government has also allocated an additional

\$20 million in additional funding for the Business Energy Savers program to help make electricity more affordable for residential and business customers.

Another key part of supporting small businesses to succeed is the creation of a balanced regulatory environment that supports small business growth. The Government is driving targeted reforms through the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council and Better Regulation Taskforce, with the 2018-19 Queensland Budget also committing \$1.1 million over four years to deliver the Business Impact Statement initiative. This initiative includes the establishment of small business consultation panels to increase awareness and rigour in the assessment of the impact of government policy on small business, with the overall aim of making it easier to do business in Queensland.

Small business confidence will also benefit from the Government's continuation of the Go Local campaign. In 2018-19, over \$600,000 will be put towards highlighting the critical role small businesses play in creating jobs, supporting economic growth and investing in their communities. This campaign recognises and celebrates that, by supporting local small businesses, Queenslanders can strengthen their local economy and create an environment where new businesses can open and existing businesses can grow.

Furthermore, the 2018-19 Queensland Budget includes a \$45.8 billion investment in infrastructure over four years. This commitment will stimulate economic activity in Queensland, provide opportunities for small business and support small business confidence across the state.

Through initiatives such as these, the 2018-19 Queensland Budget provides strong support for small business—and small business confidence—in Queensland.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

QUESTION:

Can the Minister detail how the \$1 million in targeted support and specialist business advice noted on page 5 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training will support Queenslanders to create their own future job?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government recognises the significant contribution Queensland's approximately 426,000 small businesses make to our economy, and is committed to creating an environment that encourages them to start, grow and employ. The Queensland Government also recognises the importance of providing Queenslanders with an alternative to traditional employment options.

The \$1 million allocated in the 2018-19 Budget for targeted support and specialist advice will support around 140 people per annum through intensive mentoring and advice to maximise their chance of successful self-employment, with three to four regions targeted as part of the trial.

A similar pilot program was delivered in Cairns and Townsville under the Queensland Government's Jobs and Regional Growth Package. Early feedback from participants has indicated it is enabling them to work in their own small business and unlock opportunities to employ others in the future.

Creating Your Future Job also leverages existing programs and initiatives that are delivered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. For example, the Mentoring for Growth and Advancing Women in Business programs. Additionally, the Queensland Government supports new small businesses, including through Small Business Entrepreneur Grants.

Supporting motivated jobseekers who want to create their own job could lead to strong small businesses that in-turn, lead to further employment opportunities being generated and stronger regional economies. Creating Your Future Job provides a clear signal that the Queensland Government supports self-employment as a valid choice for jobseekers, and recognises the importance of fostering those that seek to pursue this employment path.

The *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-2020* also has a key focus on empowering small businesses, helping people to develop their ideas and turn them into a business.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

QUESTION:

I refer to page 3 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and note support for mature age workers is highlighted for 2018–19. What outcomes have been achieved for Queensland's mature age workforce and what ongoing support is being provided?

ANSWER:

As Australia's population ages, it is important for employers to harness the benefits of older people in their workforce to foster business growth.

Mature aged workers bring a range of skills, knowledge and experience to a workplace, contributing to the diversity and inclusiveness, but also enabling them to share their knowledge and experiences with other workers through informal mentoring and training.

During 2017–18, the Queensland Government delivered a \$5 million Mature Aged Workers Boost under the Back to Work Program aimed at increasing mature aged participation in the workforce, by providing up to \$20,000 in support payments for eligible employers hiring eligible unemployed Queenslanders aged 55 years and over. Under this initiative, 215 mature aged unemployed jobseekers were employed across Queensland as at 30 June 2018.

Under the \$369 million Back to Work Regional and South East Queensland programs over 14,300 jobseekers have been assisted into employment, including 1,479 mature aged jobseekers as at 30 June 2018.

Our Government has also committed \$420 million over six years through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative, providing support for up to 54,000 Queenslanders to gain the skills they need to get a job.

Mature aged jobseekers are a key target group under the SQW initiative, with 4,457 jobseekers 45 years and over having been assisted with job ready training as at 30 June 2018. SQW programs available to mature aged jobseekers include the:

- Community Work Skills that is assisting jobseekers to gain nationally recognised skills and qualifications up to a Certificate III level.
- Work Skills Traineeships, with our Government identifying an increased focus on mature aged job seekers as part of its commitment, funds paid work placements on community, public works and environmental projects for up to six months. Participants undertake a Work Skills Traineeship (Certificate I in Business, Construction, Conservation and Land Management, Hospitality or Retail Services) that integrates vocational skills with on-the-job training.

- The First Start program provides wage subsidies to local councils and community-based-organisations to employ additional trainees.

As at 30 June 2018, of the 3,764 mature aged people who have completed a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, 63% have gone on to gain employment, undertake further training or a combination of both. The employment outcomes for mature aged participants is the highest for all equity groups across Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

In 2018–19, \$80 million is available under Skilling Queenslanders for Work to assist up to 10,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders. The SQW initiative is targeted towards a number of key equity groups, including mature age job seekers.

In the latest funding round announced in July 2018, funding of \$45.2 million has been committed to 227 projects providing training, skills development and employment opportunities to 7,248 disadvantaged Queenslanders, including mature aged job seekers.

To support the growth of Queensland small businesses, mature aged Queenslanders considering or currently running a small business are also able to access a range of support and services provided by the Office of Small Business.

In addition to the programs and support that mature aged jobseekers are able to access, our Government also recognises the benefits from promoting the benefits that mature aged workers bring to the workforce. We are currently investigating options to deliver on our commitment to appoint Mature Aged Ambassadors and look forward to announcing these representatives in the future.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

QUESTION:

I refer to page 31 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. Can the Minister please detail what factors are impacting TAFE Queensland's operating budget?

ANSWER:

TAFE Queensland delivers important training services for communities across Queensland. While continually working to identify opportunities for growth, delivering services in areas of need and supporting Queenslanders to access quality training opportunities, there are various other factors that impact on its operating position.

Despite being able to achieve successive surpluses since its establishment on 1 July 2014, in recent times the organisation has been impacted by a number of external factors, resulting in an estimated \$4.4 million deficit for 2017-18.

A major contributor to TAFE Queensland's deficit operating position has been changes within the national vocational education and training sector by the Commonwealth Government, including:

- VET Student Loans (VSL) – the introduction of loan caps in January 2017 has increased upfront costs to students to access training, leading to a significant drop in revenue from the VSL program which decreased by \$18.6 million in 2017-18; and
- Commonwealth Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) - contract changes have resulted in approximately \$8.8 million less revenue in 2017-18 and \$2.4 million less revenue in 2018-19.

While the Queensland Government continues to advocate for the Commonwealth's support of the VET sector, TAFE Queensland are delivering services to ensure that Queenslanders can still access training opportunities that lead to increased employment options.

As with any organisation involved in demand driven markets, operating positions can fluctuate. Our Government remains committed to TAFE Queensland as the premium public provider of VET in this State.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

QUESTION:

I refer to page 8 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and note the 2018–19 target for apprenticeship completions remains unchanged from 2017–18. What factors are influencing apprentice completions and what strategies are being put in place to support apprentice completions?

ANSWER:

Completion rates are being impacted by the range of Commonwealth cuts to apprentice, trainee and employer incentives that supported people through their training. The latest funding cut has occurred under the proposed National Partnership Skilling Australians Fund, where Queensland has lost up to \$70 million in 2017-18 compared with 2016-17.

This is just the latest reduction in support for apprentice from the Commonwealth and comes after cuts already made to

- the Tools for Your Trade Programme
- Australian Apprenticeships Access Programme
- Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships Programme
- Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Programme, and
- Apprenticeship to Business Owner Programme.

Despite these cuts, the Palaszczuk Government's investment in training and skills has seen Queensland leading the nation in new apprenticeship and traineeship commencements.

In 12 months to 31 December 2017, Queensland has seen an increase in apprenticeship and traineeship commencements of 8.5% to 39,900. At the same time nationally there has been a 1.7% decrease in commencements. Queensland beat NSW, the only other state to record an increase.

In the same period, Queensland also had the second highest result of all jurisdictions with 22,410 apprenticeship and traineeship completions, representing almost one quarter of all completions across Australia.

While Queensland is performing strongly for traineeship completions, the projected apprenticeship completions across the nation continues to be impacted by reductions in Commonwealth investment and this is reflected in the Service Delivery Statement.

While improvements in apprentice completions would occur faster with Commonwealth support, the Palaszczuk Government is determined to increase apprentice completions and has established an Advancing Apprentices Fund of up to \$1 million, matched dollar for dollar with industry, to support campaigns that promote the values of apprenticeships in Queensland. The fund will provide Queensland-based peak industry bodies, industry associations and employers with increased opportunity to highlight the benefits of the apprenticeship pathway.

Queensland also invests in apprenticeships through:

- \$202 million in User Choice funding for apprentices and trainees in 2018–19, which supports over 60,000 Queenslanders in apprenticeships and traineeships;
- \$369 million Back to Work (BTW) package – as at 30 June 2018 there were 3,393 apprentices and trainees supported through the BTW program, representing 23.7% of total employees in the program;
- doubling the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees to make it more affordable for employers to hire an apprentice or trainee. This incentive will deliver up to \$45 million in payroll tax rebates for employers of apprentices and trainees;
- workers' compensation premium apprentice discount;
- \$3.25 million of funding under the Queensland Group Training Program to create additional apprenticeship opportunities for apprentices employed through group training organisations;
- from 1 September 2017, the Queensland Building and Construction Training Policy increased its core requirements of 10% to 15% of the total labour hours on major building and/or civil construction projects to be undertaken by apprentices and/or trainees and through other workforce training;
- launched the Buy Queensland Procurement Policy, requiring contractors to use local labour and suppliers on significant projects, wherever possible;
- supporting TAFE Queensland with up to \$85 million over three years to redevelop and expand six high-need TAFE facilities, applying the Training Policy requirements for 15% of labour hours to be undertaken by apprentices and trainees; and
- investing \$4 million to the Service Trades College to establish a new industry led training centre at Beenleigh to train plumbing, heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and fire protection apprentices, pre-apprentices and to upskill existing workers.

Extending and boosting the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative to a total of \$420 million over six years also continues to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and employment opportunities to disadvantaged Queenslanders.

As part of SQW, the Work Start incentives program rewards private sector employers, ineligible for the BTW regional employer support payment, with an incentive payment when employing a former SQW participant in an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Work Start incentives provide a one-off payment of \$10,000 to private sector employers employing eligible individuals in a traineeship or apprenticeship after a qualifying period of employment (three months). From 1 July 2018, the payment will be for individuals aged 25 years and over.

In addition, from 1 July 2018, the Youth Boost incentive under the SQW Work Start program commenced. This incentive rewards private sector employers with \$20,000 for employing a former SQW participant aged 15 to 24 years in a traineeship or apprenticeship.

SQW First Start provides wage subsidies to local councils and community-based organisations to employ additional trainees. The program offers opportunities to young people and disadvantaged job seekers to gain nationally recognised qualifications and 12 months employment by undertaking a traineeship.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

QUESTION:

I refer to page 7 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) and note collaboration with Jobs Queensland as a highlight for 2018–19. Can the Minister detail how their strategic advice is being utilised?

ANSWER:

Jobs Queensland is an independent statutory entity that provides a voice for industries, regions and communities. Jobs Queensland's advice is helping plan for a skilled and productive workforce that meets the future needs of industry.

To lead this important work the members of Jobs Queensland demonstrate a strong and diverse representation of expertise and backgrounds in relation to Queensland industry, regions and the general community. Members include representatives of employers and employees, as well as people with experience in labour markets and vocational education and training and from Queensland's regions.

The advice provided by Jobs Queensland is informed by strong consultation with industry, community, regions, and employer and union representatives. Jobs Queensland has undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders over 2017-18, across 57 forums and 224 stakeholders meetings.

Since establishment, Jobs Queensland has delivered over 20 reports, workforce plans and research reports and a significant number other pieces of advice, which have been instrumental in shaping the future direction of skills and training in Queensland.

Below are some significant examples of the work and its implementation by DESBT:

- DESBT leveraged Jobs Queensland's advice in developing the 2018-19 Annual VET Investment Plan, particularly with regard to subsidy setting and program funding levels. The Jobs Queensland Board provides advice annually to inform Queensland VET Investment Plans.
- Providing recommendations under the \$4 million Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund, which aims to fund innovative skilling responses to assist emerging workforce issues, e.g. automation and robotics.
- Supporting implementation of the Regional Skills Investment Strategy (RSIS) by bringing a solid knowledge of regional economic and workforce issues to identify target locations for funding under this Strategy. RSIS is a \$9 million, four year initiative that will fund 18 regional engagement and collaboration projects to bridge the gap between existing training opportunities provided through the Annual VET Investment Plan and current workforce skill needs.

- Jobs Queensland undertook a review of the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Queensland and delivered a report containing 22 recommendations to further enhance the system, which is already well regarded by stakeholders. The report has been a key source of information to assist the Department in negotiating and consulting with the Australian Government on the Australian Apprenticeships Support Services, Apprentice Trade Support Loans Scheme and National Training Packages.
- To support the Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, Jobs Queensland worked in consultation with industry to *Advancing Manufacturing Skills: A Skills, Training and Workforce Development Strategy for the Manufacturing Industry in Queensland* was delivered to the Government. As recently announced, the implementation plan for this initiative involves approximately \$50 million in investment in manufacturing training under the VET Investment Plan.
- An innovative partnership between Jobs Queensland, TAFE Queensland and the CSIRO delivered *Growing Opportunities in the Fraser Coast: Informing regional workforce development*. An outcome of this project has been the evolution of a regional advisory group established to oversee the workforce plan into the establishment of Jobs Fraser Coast, which will have strategic oversight of local actions arising from the plan. A Regional Skills Investment Strategy resource is also being considered for the region.
- Jobs Queensland has partnered with Ipswich City Council and local manufacturers to identify the skills that manufacturers need now and for the future, and to strengthen the relationship between the supply and demand for skills in the region. As a result of this project, Jobs Queensland developed the Ipswich Manufacturing Workforce Report and Action Plan to support skills and employment opportunities in the region and provided this to the Minister on 29 June 2018. The Department has approved a Regional Skills Investment Strategy resource for the Ipswich region and this resource will include a focus on advanced manufacturing.

Advice is being provided by Jobs Queensland on a regular and ongoing basis. This is one of the key features of the establishment of Jobs Queensland and is critical, given changing jobs markets, industry growth and variety of issues that impact our regions.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

QUESTION:

I refer to page 17 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and note for the controlled income statement the notes for supplies and services highlight reductions are mainly due to the removal of the Australian Government funding for the National Partnership Skilling Australian Fund. How has this reduction impacted planning for Queensland's training investment and Queenslanders seeking apprenticeships and training?

ANSWER:

In 2016–17, Queensland received \$112.7 million through the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. In 2017–18, Queensland has lost up to \$70 million when compared to 2016-17. This cut is in addition to the cuts in funding the Australian Government has already made in recent years to group training organisations and employer incentives.

In May 2017, the Australian Government announced the NP SAF would be a four year, \$1.5 billion agreement. By May 2018, the Australian Government made even less funding available, reducing the NP SAF offer to \$1.2 billion over four years.

From 2019–20, only \$50 million nationally in funding is guaranteed to be available for training through the NP SAF. The major portion of the funding for the NP SAF from 2019–20 is to come from a yet to be implemented levy on employers of skilled migrants.

The Australian Government refuses to guarantee all future funding for the NP SAF. This makes it difficult for the Palaszczuk Government to fund and commit to projects, when the funding is so uncertain.

Importantly, the Palaszczuk Government has taken significant steps to address the reduction in Commonwealth funding and to make it more affordable for employers to employ apprentices and trainees through initiatives such as:

- the \$369 million Back to Work initiative;
- a payroll tax rebate from 1 July 2015;
- workers compensation premium discount for apprentices;
- expanding the Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy;
- implementing the Skilling Queenslanders for Work suite of programs;
- increasing subsidies and making more than \$202 million available to train apprentices and trainees; and
- reinstatement of a Queensland Training Ombudsman.

Even without guaranteed funding, the Palaszczuk Government has demonstrated its commitment to growth in apprenticeships and traineeships by:

- announcing the \$1 million Advancing Apprentices Fund to encourage more businesses to take on an apprentice or trainee and to encourage more people into priority training;
- allocated \$777.9 million to the VET Investment Plan in 2018–19, an increase of \$9 million from 2017-2018; and
- ensuring that the 2018-2019 VET Investment Plan includes more than \$202 million in training subsidies for apprentices and trainees through the User Choice program.

Queensland continues to be the majority government funder of vocational education and training (VET) in Queensland, including apprenticeships and traineeships, and needs the Australian Government to provide its fair share.

The Palaszczuk Government believes that Queensland deserves a new partnership for training that represents a net benefit to individuals, industry, employers and to the State's economy. The Palaszczuk Government will continue to strive towards a fair arrangement that provides future funding certainty, shares financial risk and that does not threaten Queensland's sovereignty.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

QUESTION:

Can the Minister please detail how the further \$17.3 million, noted on page 14 of the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, for capital works is being allocated to support TAFE Queensland's role as the premier provider of Vocational Education and Training in Queensland?

ANSWER:

In the 2018-19 Budget, \$17.3 million has been allocated for capital works projects to renew and grow Queensland's training campuses across the State. This investment will enable TAFE Queensland to deliver on priority skills and training that underpins Queensland's workforce and economic development.

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) works closely with TAFE Queensland to identify key projects where infrastructure investment can modernise facilities to simulate employer and workplace settings. Additionally, DESBT seeks advice from Jobs Queensland on emerging regional skilling and employment opportunities to ensure that ongoing infrastructure investment is relevant and continues to support regional economic pillars.

The program also addresses a number of building asset replacements within larger refurbishment programs, particularly in regions where limited infrastructure reinvigoration has occurred in recent years.

As part of the 2018-19 capital works program the Queensland Government has allocated \$1.5 million to upgrade nursing training facilities at the Loganlea and Caboolture TAFE Queensland campuses. The investment will provide interactive observation rooms and viewing laboratories to simulate the hospital environment, allowing TAFE Queensland to train the health workers of the future.

Queensland will also become a beacon for budding fashionistas with the announcement of \$1.5 million to create a Fashion Centre of Excellence at Mt Gravatt TAFE. This will focus all the creative energy of our fashion students into one centre, giving the next generation of designers, jewellery makers and milliners the training and skills they need to continue putting TAFE Queensland graduates on the world stage. During 2018–19, DESBT will also continue the master planning of the Mt Gravatt site as part of the Advancing Our Training Infrastructure election commitment.

Trade training on the Gold Coast will benefit from an investment of \$1.5 million to redevelop the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation's head office into a home for industry-grade electrical training. The stage one development will also include a \$500,000 upgrade to the carpentry and wet-trades training areas.

The Ashmore campus is in a strategically important location to support the trade training needs of the entire Gold Coast region and it is important that the campuses

support a drive to attract more apprentices and trainees, and develop more skilled workers. This redevelopment will increase student capacity.

Our Government also continues to support TAFE Queensland as the premier public provider of VET in Queensland, with a commitment of up to \$85 million for three years in the Advancing Our Training Infrastructure election commitment. This will include upgrades at Pimlico, Toowoomba, Cairns, and Mt Gravatt, and within the regions of the Gold Coast and Redlands. In 2018-19, \$30 million of the \$85 million has been allocated.

Of this, the Queensland Government is investing \$26 million in revitalising the heart of Townsville's Pimlico campus with the construction of the first new building in more than 40 years. The Pimlico project will reinvigorate the campus and position it as the region's specialised contemporary non-trade training centre. The focus will be on the modernisation of learning areas and equipment for students studying hair and beauty, nursing, visual arts and hospitality, as well as general teaching spaces.

The new facilities at Pimlico campus will complement the modern trade training facilities at Bohle and will make the Pimlico campus more attractive, lively and accessible for students.

We are also applying the Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy to these projects, which will ensure that 15 percent of all labour hours on these projects will be undertaken by apprentices and trainees – further providing skilling and training opportunities to the next generation of workers in Queensland.

To support and drive the revitalisation of TAFE sites across Queensland, regional infrastructure planning is also underway. DESBT is working with Jobs Queensland, the Department of Housing and Public Works, the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning and TAFE Queensland to progress this regional planning.

Taking a regional approach to the planning means that we can analyse the skills needs of local communities and work with key stakeholders to understand future training infrastructure requirements.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 8 – training and skills number of completions service standard – will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format, per financial year, per completion type and per institute) of the number of completions at each government funded Queensland training institute (TAFE institutes and agricultural colleges) for 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18?

ANSWER:

Since 2014-15 TAFE Queensland has undergone a number of changes, including going from having multiple registered training organisations to now being one registered training organisation from 1 June 2017.

The following statistics provide a breakdown of completions by public training providers in Queensland:

Apprenticeship completions

Provider	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 Est*
TAFE Queensland	4695	4676	4000	3954
- Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	334	1	NA	N/A**
- Brisbane North Institute of TAFE	25	1	NA	N/A**
- Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE	22	NA	NA	N/A**
- Mount Isa Institute of TAFE	70	1	NA	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland	NA	NA	411	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland Brisbane	267	304	NA	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland East Coast	320	483	419	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland Gold Coast	392	402	392	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland North	385	823	669	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland SkillsTech	2112	2077	1665	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland South West	441	584	444	N/A**
- The Bremer Institute of TAFE	158	NA	NA	N/A**
- Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	169	NA	NA	N/A**
Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts	0	0	0	0
Aviation Australia	41	24	53	52
CQ University Australia	719	854	593	424
Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges	3	4	7	3
TOTAL	5458	5558	4653	4433

*Due to delays in lodgement of contract completion details finalised data for the 2017-18 financial year will not be available until January 2019. Due to this, estimated final figures are provided for 2017-18.

** Not available as TAFE Queensland is now one registered training organisation

Traineeship completions

Provider	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 Est*
TAFE OVERALL	1569	1146	983	1139
- Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	60	NA	NA	N/A**
- Brisbane North Institute of TAFE	39	NA	NA	N/A**
- Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE	35	NA	NA	N/A**
- Mount Isa Institute of TAFE	7	NA	NA	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland	NA	NA	197	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland Brisbane	79	110	NA	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland East Coast	154	240	181	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland Gold Coast	101	39	13	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland North	88	118	115	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland SkillsTech	131	98	72	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland South West	616	541	405	N/A**
- The Bremer Institute of TAFE	146	NA	NA	N/A**
- Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	113	NA	NA	N/A**
Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts	0	0	0	0
Aviation Australia	0	2	0	0
CQ University Australia	91	80	133	150
Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges	35	59	146	284
TOTAL	1695	1287	1262	1573

*Due to delays in lodgement of contract completion details finalised data for the 2017-18 financial year will not be available until January 2019. Due to this, estimated final figures are provided for 2017-18.

** Not available as TAFE Queensland is now one registered training organisation

**School-based Apprenticeships and
Traineeships (SATs) completions**

Provider	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 Est*
TAFE OVERALL	727	726	696	656
- Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	38	1	NA	N/A**
- Brisbane North Institute of TAFE	21	NA	NA	N/A**
- Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE	25	NA	NA	N/A**
- Mount Isa Institute of TAFE	1	NA	NA	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland	NA	NA	128	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland Brisbane	43	65	NA	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland East Coast	105	137	89	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland Gold Coast	39	42	36	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland North	49	80	82	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland SkillsTech	130	126	126	N/A**
- TAFE Queensland South West	145	275	235	N/A**
- The Bremer Institute of TAFE	80	NA	NA	N/A**
- Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	51	NA	NA	N/A**
Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts	0	0	0	0
Aviation Australia	1	0	0	0
CQ University Australia	72	91	72	52
Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges	19	23	32	32
TOTAL	819	840	800	740

*Due to delays in lodgement of contract completion details finalised data for the 2017-18 financial year will not be available until January 2019. Due to this, estimated final figures are provided for 2017-18.

** Not available as TAFE Queensland is now one registered training organisation

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 30 – TAFE Queensland's 2018-19 budgeted staffing cut of 158 employees – will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (in table format, per financial year and per institute) of the estimated actual or budgeted total number of full-time equivalent, part-time, casual and temporary staff employed at each institute for 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19?

ANSWER:

TAFE Queensland's staffing numbers are aligned to anticipated training demand and support requirements. Staffing fluctuations are a normal part of demand driven training delivery. Staffing numbers are adjusted throughout the year according to actual delivery requirements and the commencement and completion of short term projects and are managed by the engagement of temporary and contract staff, voluntary redundancies and natural attrition.

TAFE Queensland's full time equivalent (FTE) staffing numbers from 2011-12 to 2018-19 are as follows:

	2011-12 Actual*	2012-13 Actual*	2013-14 Actual*	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget Est
Total FTE	5,554	5,157	4,602	4,010	3,959	4,017	3,937	3,831

**Excludes Central Queensland Institute of TAFE FTE staffing numbers transferred to the Central Queensland University on 30 June 2014.*

The further information requested is not available.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 28 – TAFE Queensland’s key priorities and the board’s responsibility for organisational strategic direction – will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of TAFE Board expenses (in table format, per financial year with individual data for: number of meetings held, position, member’s name, number of meetings attended, approved fees, actual fees, total expenditure, international travel and total allowances) for 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18?

ANSWER:

The TAFE Queensland Board presents an annual report each year providing an overview of the organisation’s activities, achievements and financial statements for the previous financial year.

The annual reports include details of Board related activities and remuneration details. These reports can be located via the TAFE Queensland website at <https://tafeqld.edu.au/about-us/policy-and-governance/annual-reports.html>.

With TAFE Queensland’s 2017-18 annual report currently being finalised, the details for 2017-18 will also be available on this site.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 31 – total expenses – will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of overseas related estimated actual and budgeted TAFE expenses (in table format, per financial year and per country) for 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19?

ANSWER:

Information in relation to TAFE Queensland's international travel expenses is available on the Queensland Government's open data website at: www.data.qld.gov.au.

TAFE Queensland is the largest and most experienced provider of vocational education and training in the State and delivers training to international students from more than 90 countries, both in Australia and overseas.

TAFE Queensland continues to strengthen its international presence and increase on and off shore international business, contributing to the international education and training industry through the export of products and services.

TAFE Queensland has been recognised for the quality of its international education and training through various awards. For example, TAFE Queensland's engagement in the K-Move Project, sponsored by the Human Resources Development (HRD) Service of Korea to encourage student mobility and employment of Korean youth, has resulted in winning a prestigious award in the Education Services category at the AustCham Korea Business Awards.

Overseas travel is undertaken by TAFE Queensland personnel for business development, sales and recruitment, training delivery and professional development. Detailed expenditure, by financial year and country, is provided in the following table.

Overseas Travel: single destination country	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19*
Argentina			\$13,822		
Brazil		\$163	\$2,000		
Canada		\$33,388			
Chile	\$10,998	\$3,438			
China	\$172,372	\$158,447	\$220,212	\$246,861	\$245,585
Denmark			\$9,408		
Dominican Republic		\$486			
Fiji		\$1,702	\$11,584	\$5,648	
Germany		\$13,899	\$16,389		
Hong Kong	\$3,803	\$7,506	\$1,130		
India	\$6,626	\$1,130	\$4,119	\$1,756	\$5,100
Indonesia	\$3,058	\$39,116	\$49,756	\$59,523	\$24,200
Japan		\$5,753	\$12,807	\$14,437	\$7,800
Kiribati		\$1,774			
Kuwait			\$6,348		
Laos			\$2,691	\$869	
Malaysia	\$1,323	\$2,820		\$19,582	
Mongolia	\$3,423	\$17,110	\$9,058		
Nauru	\$10,924	\$2,164	\$14,145	\$4,240	\$5,400
Nepal				\$3,903	
New Zealand	\$7,321	\$2,560	\$6,231	\$7,745	
Norfolk Island	\$785	\$320	\$2,221		
Papua New Guinea	\$36,059	\$43,235	\$26,172	\$32,067	\$25,250
Peru		\$421	\$9,348		
Philippines	\$13,837	\$15,818	\$22,139	\$14,186	
Republic of Korea	\$7,408	\$9,531	\$20,567	\$23,307	\$32,600
Samoa				\$11,080	

Saudi Arabia		\$8,068			
Singapore	\$7,816	\$2,557	\$13,168		
Solomon Islands		\$73,255	\$46,559	\$3,099	
Switzerland		\$2,000	\$4,905		
Taiwan			\$1,309	\$4,757	
Thailand			\$9,315	\$2,402	
Tonga		\$6,027			
United Arab Emirates			\$14,154	\$5,201	
United Kingdom	\$7,416	\$3,348	\$42,163		
United States	\$2,326	\$5,596	\$15,493	\$6,205	
Vietnam			\$1,000	\$20,897	
Overseas Travel: multiple destination countries					
Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe					\$10,200
Asia: including China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao SAR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Phillipines, Rep. of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam	\$112,096	\$157,899	\$113,859	\$55,667	\$245,150
Canada, USA			\$1,160		
UK/Europe: including Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	\$28,971	\$50,722	\$2,344	\$14,561	\$14,000
Pacific: including Fiji, Kirabati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu		\$2,105	\$24,083	\$7,083	
South America: including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru	\$48,779	\$54,251	\$44,867	\$67,575	\$72,240
TOTAL TAFE Queensland Overseas Expenditure	\$485,341	\$726,609	\$794,529	\$632,649	\$687,525

**2018-19 budget estimate*

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 31 – total expenses – will the Minister disclose the total value of Queensland TAFE's business development related hospitality expenses for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 by position: a) Chair, b) CEO and c) all other employees (combined)?

ANSWER:

TAFE Queensland is the largest public provider of quality vocational education and training in the State with an annual turnover of more than \$600 million.

Commensurate with an organisation of this size, TAFE Queensland undertakes a wide range of business development initiatives that incur hospitality expenses, ranging from a mobile coffee van on worksites through to large industry engagement events.

TAFE Queensland's corporate hospitality related expenses associated with these activities is:

TAFE Queensland	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Business Development Hospitality Expenses	\$38,672	\$37,820	\$83,303

The 2017-18 expenditure reflects TAFE Queensland's role as the Official Training Partner and a Tier 1 Sponsor for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

To enable business development and support the identification of increased opportunities for TAFE Queensland, a wide range of corporate hospitality events are conducted each year across the breadth of the organisation. Given the purpose of these events they are not attributed to individuals.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 7 – continuing to work with Government agencies to allocate at least 10 per cent of total labour hours on eligible projects to be undertaken by apprentices and/or trainees, with a further 10 per cent of total labour hours to be allocated for projects in Indigenous communities – will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of all eligible projects completed (in table format, per financial year with individual data for: project location, project cost, project overview, project training hours, total project work hours) in 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18?

ANSWER:

Our Government remains committed to ensuring there are increased opportunities for apprentices and trainees to progress their careers. The Queensland Government's Building and Construction Training Policy provides for up to 15 per cent of labour hours on Government projects valued over \$100 million to be undertaken by apprentices and trainees and through other workforce training. This was an increase on the 10% previously required.

Our commitment to the Building and Construction Training Policy is further evidenced by the application of this policy on projects being delivered under our Government's up to \$85 million Advancing Our Training Infrastructure commitment.

Since 2014-15 the Palaszczuk Government has exceeded the deemed hours required under the Training Policy for eligible projects. The Palaszczuk Government is proud of this achievement.

The application of, and outcomes from, the training policy since 2014-15 are outlined as follows:

2014-15

A total of 34 projects have been completed in the 2014-15 and are valued at an approximate total of \$96 million. Of the 34 projects recorded, 6 are Indigenous projects or delivered in Indigenous communities.

The number of training and employment hours reported by contractors for the 34 projects totals 60,233, which well exceeds the 48,850 deemed hours required under the Training Policy for these projects. The number of labour hours recorded on these projects for apprentices and/or trainees (new entrants only) totals 38,472.

The 6 Indigenous projects totals approximately \$11 million (including GST). The number of training and employment hours reported by contractors totals 8003, which well exceeds the 5,483 deemed hours required under the Training Policy for these

projects. The number of labour hours recorded on these projects for apprentices and/or trainees (new entrants only) totals 3,842 hours.

2015-16

A total of 182 projects have been recorded as completed in the 2015-16 and are valued at an approximate total of \$700 million. Of the 182 projects recorded, 49 are Indigenous projects.

The number of training and employment hours reported by contractors for the 182 projects totals 485,903, which well exceeds the 337,025 deemed hours required under the Training Policy for these projects. The number of labour hours recorded on these projects for apprentices and/or trainees (new entrants only) totals 254,861.

The 49 Indigenous projects totals approximately \$122 million (including GST). The number of training and employment hours reported by contractors totals 139,048, which well exceeds the 65,046 deemed hours required under the Training Policy for these projects. The number of labour hours recorded on these projects for apprentices and/or trainees (new entrants only) totals 51,096 hours.

2016-17

A total of 275 projects have been recorded as completed in the 2016-17 and are valued at an approximate total of \$1 billion. Of the 275 projects recorded, 58 are Indigenous projects.

The number of training and employment hours reported by contractors for the 275 projects totals 798,900, which well exceeds the 505,157 deemed hours required under the Training Policy for these projects. The number of labour hours recorded on these projects for apprentices and/or trainees (new entrants only) totals 401,465.

The 58 Indigenous projects totals approximately \$167 million (including GST). The number of training and employment hours reported by contractors totals 240,003, which well exceeds the 86,538 deemed hours required under the Training Policy for these projects. The number of labour hours recorded on these projects for apprentices and/or trainees (new entrants only) totals 89,310 hours.

2017-18

Data for the 2017–18 is not yet available and is currently being compiled by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training in collaboration with Queensland Government agencies and government owned corporations as part of the annual reporting process.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 2 – DESBT's key priority to deliver the Back to Work initiative – will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the number of approved applications (in table format, per financial year and per payment type) for each Queensland Local Government Area in 2016–17 and 2017–18?

ANSWER:

I am proud that the benefits of the Back to Work program have been received in every Local Government Area across Queensland. Details regarding the Back to Work initiative are provided in the table below:

Local Government Area	Employer Support		Youth Boost		Mature Aged Worker Boost	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Aurukun (S)	1	0	1	1	-	0
Balonne (S)	2	0	5	1	-	0
Banana (S)	11	12	12	20	-	0
Barcaldine (R)	3	1	7	12	-	0
Barcoo (S)	1	0	0	0	-	0
Blackall Tambo (R)	1	0	9	7	-	1
Brisbane (C)	0	102	0	548	-	22
Bulloo (S)	5	1	1	2	-	0
Bundaberg (R)	178	180	217	402	-	16
Burdekin (S)	16	9	30	57	-	0
Burke (S)	0	1	0	2	-	0
Cairns (R)	378	331	449	724	-	20
Carpentaria (S)	0	1	10	8	-	0
Cassowary Coast (R)	24	46	32	79	-	5
Central Highlands (R)	39	27	44	54	-	2
Charters Towers (R)	8	11	20	37	-	1
Cherbourg (S)	1	0	0	1	-	0
Cloncurry (S)	2	8	5	14	-	0
Cook (S)	1	1	2	4	-	0
Croydon (S)	0	1	1	1	-	1
Diamantina (S)	2	0	0	1	-	0
Doomadgee (S)	10	9	0	1	-	0
Douglas (S)	5	19	16	32	-	2
Etheridge (S)	0	1	3	1	-	0
Flinders (S)	1	4	2	3	-	0

Local Government Area	Employer Support		Youth Boost		Mature Aged Worker Boost	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Fraser Coast (R)	203	148	218	391	-	12
Gladstone (R)	136	126	138	220	-	10
Gold Coast (C)	0	56	0	379	-	14
Goondiwindi (R)	4	7	23	7	-	0
Gympie (R)	56	79	68	152	-	6
Hinchinbrook (S)	32	33	26	37	-	1
Ipswich (C)	0	33	0	114	-	2
Isaac (R)	13	14	26	49	-	0
Kowanyama (S)	0	2	0	0	-	0
Livingstone (S)	17	38	55	121	-	7
Lockyer Valley (R)	0	14	0	15	-	1
Logan (C)	0	29	0	136	-	9
Longreach (R)	16	8	28	19	-	1
Mackay (R)	214	144	251	428	-	7
McKinlay (S)	0	0	2	7	-	0
Maranoa (R)	10	8	23	37	-	5
Mareeba (S)	14	21	41	47	-	2
Moreton Bay (R)	0	36	0	216	-	6
Mount Isa (C)	90	46	51	77	-	3
Murweh (S)	1	2	4	4	-	0
Napranum (S)	0	0	0	1	-	0
Noosa (S)	0	9	0	47	-	3
North Burnett (R)	8	11	13	24	-	0
Northern Peninsula Area (R)	13	3	6	4	-	0
Paroo (S)	0	0	1	1	-	0
Quilpie (S)	1	0	1	1	-	0
Redland (C)	0	10	0	45	-	1
Richmond (S)	1	3	2	4	-	0
Rockhampton (R)	104	103	187	244	-	4
Scenic Rim (R)	0	3	0	15	-	1
Somerset (R)	0	1	0	13	-	0
South Burnett (R)	21	44	57	70	-	1
Southern Downs (R)	41	26	75	87	-	2
Sunshine Coast (R)	0	61	0	351	-	12
Tablelands (R)	41	45	32	72	-	5
Toowoomba (R)	0	26	0	150	-	4
Torres (S)	3	0	3	2	-	0
Torres Strait Island (R)	1	0	1	0	-	0
Townsville (C)	416	273	493	724	-	21
Weipa (T)	95	5	5	13	-	0
Western Downs (R)	21	22	22	44	-	2
Whitsunday (R)	150	91	88	146	-	3

Local Government Area	Employer Support		Youth Boost		Mature Aged Worker Boost	
	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Woorabinda (S)	2	1	0	0	-	0
Yarrabah (S)	1	3	2	6	-	0
Total	2414	2349	2808	6532	-	215

S – Shire; R - Regional Council; C – City; T - Town

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

QUESTION:

In relation to the monitoring and compliance of Registered Training Organisations (RTO) in Queensland, has the Government made any budget provision to investigate whether competencies gained by individuals who received accreditation from an RTO are suitable for employment or does the government rely on the training organisations to self-regulate?

ANSWER:

The regulation of the quality of training delivered by registered training organisations (RTOs) in Queensland is the responsibility of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), the national vocational education and training (VET) regulator.

However, the Queensland Government works collaboratively with ASQA through its VET Quality Framework to monitor the performance and delivery of Queensland based Pre-qualified suppliers. Queensland has led the way on partnering with ASQA under this Framework to lift confidence in the quality of training being provided in our State.

ASQA was established under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* (Commonwealth) to ensure that the quality and reputation of Australia's VET system was maintained through national regulation of VET providers.

In 2012, the previous LNP Government referred its regulatory powers to ASQA.

RTOs operating in Queensland must comply with ASQA's *Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015* (the Standards), which require training and assessment practices to be responsive to industry and learner needs, and to meet the requirements of training packages and VET accredited training courses.

While the Queensland Government referred its regulatory powers to ASQA in 2012, it has retained some market oversight functions to ensure that providers delivering government-subsidised training are compliant with their prequalified supplier agreements and to assist in protecting Queenslanders when they experience difficulty in the VET system. An example of this is the establishment of the Queensland Training Ombudsman in 2015.

The Queensland Government works in close partnership with ASQA, via a communication protocol, to share information and work closely to better coordinate RTO oversight activities. Instances where the Department becomes aware of a training provider that may not be compliant with the Standards, they are referred to ASQA for investigation and action.

To ensure that delivery of high quality training in Queensland, the Palaszczuk Government has since 2015 been getting tough with training providers. We have, since 2015, removed 174 training providers from the market who either were not

providing quality training, or weren't up to the task of doing so or were no longer delivering training for Queenslanders.

The number of registered training organisations eligible as pre-qualified suppliers in Queensland to provide subsidised training has fallen from 718 at 30 June 2016 to 544 as at 30 June 2018.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

QUESTION:

In relation to the Government's strategy toward workplace discrimination, has there been any budget allocation to support programs or initiatives that encourage employers or employees to use language that does not define gender in terms of male and female?

ANSWER:

There has been no budget allocation within the Employment, Small Business and Training portfolio for programs or initiatives that encourage employers or employees to use language that does not define gender in terms of male and female.

ESTIMATES QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

QUESTION:

In relation to the need to increase employment and economic activity in Indigenous communities, has the Government investigated and quantified the negative impact that the current Blue Card system has on employment in these communities?

ANSWER:

Matters relating to the Blue Card system are within the administrative responsibility of the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

I would, however, like to highlight that the Queensland Government is committed to making Queensland a safe place for children to live, grow and learn, and on 17 October 2017, launched a new television and radio campaign to encourage people in Indigenous communities to apply for blue cards to work with children.

The campaign resources have been developed in consultation with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, to ensure they are culturally effective and appropriate.

I am pleased that Gilimbaa, a Queensland Indigenous small business, produced the series of videos and radio plays as part of the campaign, which is helping to raise awareness and education about the Blue Card system within remote Indigenous communities.

Part of the campaign highlights that having a criminal record does not automatically disqualify a person from obtaining a Blue Card. The system seeks to exclude only those people whose past behaviour indicates they are not eligible to enter regulated child-related employment.

This work is part of the broader effort by the Queensland Government in creating safe environments for our children.

Correspondence

Correspondence	
1.	Letter from the Leader of the Opposition, received 22 June 2018, requesting leave for Members attendance
2.	Letter from Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa, received 28 June 2018, requesting leave to attend
3.	Letter from Mr Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani, received 13 July 2018, requesting leave to attend
4.	Letter from Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar, received 18 July 2018, requesting leave to attend



Deb Frecklington MP

Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Trade

22 June 2018

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee
Attention: Ms Leanne Linard MP, Chair

By email: eesbc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Linard

I'm writing in relation to the Committee's consideration of the 2018/19 portfolio budget estimates.

Pursuant to section 181(e) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, I seek leave for the following Members to attend the public estimates hearing of the Committee, scheduled for Thursday, 2 August 2018:

- Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango
- Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton
- Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore

Should you have any queries, please contact Peter Coulson of my office.

Yours sincerely

DEB FRECKLINGTON MP
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Trade
Member for Nanango

CC: Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Ms Jann Stuckey MP

Sandy Bolton MP

Member for Noosa



28th June 2018

Leanne Linard MP
Chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Dear Ms Linard,

I am writing in relation to the committee's consideration of the 2018/19 portfolio budget estimates. Pursuant to section 181(e) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, I seek leave to attend and ask questions at the public estimates hearing of the committee, scheduled for 2nd August 2018.

Yours faithfully

SANDY BOLTON MP
Member for Noosa





Stephen Andrew MP

Member for Mirani

12 July 2018

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Chair,

In accordance with Standing Order 181(e) I seek leave to participate in the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee public hearing in relation to proposed expenditure for the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and their portfolio areas on 2nd August 2018.

Sincerely

MP Stephen Andrew

Member for Mirani

MICHAEL BERKMAN MP

Queensland Greens Member for Maiwar



18 July 2018

Ms Leanne Linard MP
Member for Nudgee
Chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

By email: eesbc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Request for leave to appear and ask questions at 2018-19 budget estimates hearings

Dear Ms Linard,

Leanne

I am writing in relation to the upcoming budget estimates hearing of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, scheduled for 2 August 2018.

I seek leave of the Committee under standing order 181(e) to attend and ask questions at this hearing.

Kind regards,

Michael Berkman MP

www.michaelberkman.com.au

1/49 Station Road, Indooroopilly • PO Box 423, Indooroopilly Centre QLD 4068
P: 07 3737 4100 • E: maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing –
2 August 2018**

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

No. 1

ASKED ON 2 AUGUST 2018

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON GRACE GRACE MP)—

QUESTION:

Are you aware of plaques that, because the Premier or the Minister have changed the dates that they can attend the opening, have had to be changed or thrown out? What were the additional costs?

ANSWER:

A new plaque was re-issued for Baringa State Primary School at a cost of \$424.55 (excluding GST) due to a change in the official opening date from 9 May 2018 to 28 June 2018.

This cost was borne by the Department of Education's North Coast Regional Office and had no impact on the school's budget.

Documents tabled at the hearing – 2 August 2018

Documents tabled at the hearing – 2 August 2018	
1.	Table of additional Commonwealth funding required if existing arrangements were continued compared to recurrent funding model by state/territory and sector, 2018-2027 (\$m), from the federal Department of Education and Training, tabled by Hon Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations.
2.	Press release issued by the Deputy Premier in February 2018 titled <i>Preferred location identified for new inner-south high school</i> , tabled by Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana.
3.	Letter of decision to Mr Peter Coulson, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, regarding an access application under the <i>Right to Information Act 2009</i> (dated 2 July 2018); and the document pages released pursuant to the decision, recording each occasion when an inspector was abused by a trade union official, organiser or delegate, tabled by Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana.
4.	Letter from Hon Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education and Industrial Relations, to Hon Craig Lundy MP, federal Minister for Small and Family Business, the Workplace and Deregulation, regarding resourcing for the Fair Work Ombudsman in Queensland (dated 18 May 2018), tabled by Hon Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations.
5.	Table titled <i>Savings and Reprioritisation Measures</i> from the LNP'S Costings Report, highlighting the reallocation from the Back to Work program, tabled by Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.
6.	Transcript from ABC Southern Queensland's Drive program (dated 27 June 2018), tabled by Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.
7.	Media release from Ms Fiona Simpson MP titled <i>Labor cuts push young people back to dole</i> (dated 26 June 2018), tabled by Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.
8	Article by Anton Rose regarding the Leader of the Opposition's letter to the Editor sent to <i>The Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba) about the time it takes to find a job in Toowoomba (dated 11th January 2018), tabled by Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.

Tabled by: Hon Grace Grace MP
 At: Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
 Time/date: 9:35am 02/08/18
 Signature: [Signature] Attachment A

Additional Commonwealth funding required if existing arrangements were continued, including treating all jurisdictions as if they were signatories to the NERA, compared to recurrent funding model by state/territory and sector, 2018–2027 (\$m)

Note: Based on the new recurrent funding model with data as at 17 November 2017, which includes enrolment growth. The recurrent funding model is based on a ten-year transition for schools above the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) and a six-year transition for schools below the SRS. Continuing the existing arrangements assumes (a) current indexation arrangements under the Australian Education Act 2013 (assuming all states and territories are 'participating') are maintained over 2018 to 2027 and (b) additional funding under the NERA is maintained for the life of the agreement to 2019. May not sum due to rounding.

State	Sector	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
NSW	G	197	446	443	442	443	443	516	595	682	776
NSW	C	24	48	62	80	101	99	108	117	127	138
NSW	I	4	11	-1	-12	-25	-40	-21	1	22	44
NSW	All	225	505	503	511	519	501	602	713	831	958
VIC	G	-86	566	567	568	567	565	636	715	800	893
VIC	C	22	43	60	85	98	98	108	119	130	143
VIC	I	2	2	-7	-15	-26	-38	-28	-21	-17	-11
VIC	All	-62	610	620	637	639	625	717	813	913	1,025
QLD	G	84	182	182	179	175	169	212	259	309	364
QLD	C	19	39	57	78	100	116	124	133	143	153
QLD	I	-3	-6	-18	-29	-41	-55	-48	-41	-34	-26
QLD	All	100	214	221	228	234	229	288	351	418	491
SA	G	45	129	122	114	106	98	113	129	146	164
SA	C	7	21	23	27	30	35	42	47	49	52
SA	I	6	21	18	15	12	8	15	22	29	36
SA	All	58	171	163	156	148	140	169	198	224	252
WA	G	-28	-57	-101	-149	-201	-259	-261	-262	-263	-262
WA	C	3	7	10	14	19	25	38	52	60	65
WA	I	-6	-12	-21	-31	-41	-52	-47	-42	-34	-29
WA	All	-30	-62	-113	-165	-223	-287	-271	-252	-236	-226
TAS	G	9	20	22	24	26	28	32	36	40	44
TAS	C	1	0	0	-0	-0	-0	2	5	8	11
TAS	I	-1	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-4	-2	-1	0
TAS	All	9	19	19	20	21	23	30	39	47	55
ACT	G	-5	-10	-16	-23	-30	-39	-42	-46	-50	-54
ACT	C	6	13	18	24	30	36	43	50	58	67
ACT	I	2	5	7	10	13	17	21	26	31	37
ACT	All	4	8	9	11	12	14	22	31	40	51
NT	G	19	40	48	59	70	82	95	110	126	144
NT	C	-1	-1	-4	-7	-10	-14	-13	-12	-12	-11
NT	I	-1	-1	-2	-4	-5	-8	-7	-6	-4	-3
NT	All	17	38	42	48	54	61	76	92	110	130
AUS	G	235	1,315	1,266	1,215	1,155	1,086	1,301	1,536	1,792	2,070
AUS	C	82	169	226	300	367	393	451	511	564	619
AUS	I	4	18	-27	-69	-117	-172	-118	-62	-7	49
AUS	All	321	1,503	1,466	1,445	1,405	1,307	1,634	1,985	2,348	2,738



Media release

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
The Honourable Jackie Trad

Tabled by: Member for Kawana
Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
Time: 9:58am 02/08/18
Sign: SA Macdonald

Preferred location identified for new inner-south high school

The Dutton Park Ecosciences precinct has been identified as the preferred precinct for the first new high school to be built in Brisbane's inner-south for more than 50 years.

Deputy Premier and Member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad said the new school was being built to service the growing local community and was designed to relieve pressure on Brisbane State High School.

"As a local parent, I have witnessed first-hand the significant population growth in the inner-south and the corresponding impact on local school populations, like Brisbane State High, which is the largest secondary school across the nation," Ms Trad said.

"That's why I have fought hard, on behalf of my local community, to secure a new school for the inner-south because I know it is the number one issue for our community.

"I'm proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Government, which is delivering new schools right across our state in high growth areas, like the inner-city.

"The Ecosciences Precinct has been identified as the best location for the new secondary school because it will help cater for current and future growth, ensuring that it will be a school planned and designed for the long term. Additionally, with its proximity and connection via the Eleanor Schonell Bridge to the University of Queensland - which is partnering with Education Queensland on this exciting education initiative - ensures that we maximise opportunities for students to access the University's resources, facilities, lecturers and classes.

"While already well connected to public transport through Park Road train station and the Eastern Busway, the Ecosciences Precinct will also be serviced by a future Cross River Rail station will provide further connection.

"This is an important milestone but, as promised, information will be provided to the community for full consultation and engagement before finalising the decision about location."

Education Minister Grace Grace said the school was planned to open for Year 7 students from the start of 2021.

"The school will have an active and long-term partnership with the University of Queensland to develop innovative education for students from Years 7 -12," Ms Grace said.

"A principal would be appointed in the second half of 2019 to work with key stakeholders to progress the development of the school's vision, policies and curriculum.

"Planning works are also underway for a new inner city north state secondary college, which is being developed in partnership with QUT, at Brookes Street in Fortitude Valley which is due to open in 2020."

School and community information sessions will be held during February and March 2018.

The Inner City South School Community Reference Group, made up of principals and community representatives from neighbouring schools, the University of Queensland and from the Department of Education met during the latter part of 2017 and came together again this week to discuss the identification of the preferred precinct.

Additional information is available from the [Building Future Schools website](http://advancingeducation.qld.gov.au/building-future-schools/Pages/default.aspx), (<http://advancingeducation.qld.gov.au/building-future-schools/Pages/default.aspx>) (<http://advancingeducation.qld.gov.au/building-future-schools/Pages/default.aspx>) (<http://advancingeducation.qld.gov.au/building-future-schools/Pages/default.aspx>)

This project is being delivered as part of the Queensland Government's \$800 million Building Future Schools Fund.

Media contact: Clare Manton 0432 446 268

Our reference: 180163

2 July 2018

Office of the Leader of the Opposition
PO Box 15057
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Attn: Mr Peter Coulson

Tabled by: Member for Kawana
At: Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
Time/date: 12.35pm 02/08/18
Signature: PAManderson



Queensland
Government

Office of
Industrial Relations

Queensland Treasury

Dear Mr Coulson

Right to Information Act 2009 - access application
Charges Estimate Notice
Decision Notice

I refer to your application under the *Right to Information Act 2009* seeking access to the following documents:

The initial document that records each occasion when an inspector was abused by a trade union official, organiser or delegate.

Matter in issue

Searches for documents were conducted by the Office of Industrial Relations and 10 pages of information were located.

I have decided to give you partial access to seven pages, pursuant to s.47(3)(b), on the basis that the disclosure of personal and business information on these pages would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest [Sch 4/3/2 and Sch 4/3/3];

I have decided to refuse you complete access to three pages (numbered: 2, 3 and 4). Each page contains:

- (a) some of the information that is "out of scope;" and
- (b) some information, pursuant to s.47(3)(b), on the basis that the disclosure of personal information on these pages would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest [Sch 4/3/3]; and
- (c) some information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the investigation of a possible contravention of the law and it is exempt information, pursuant to s.48 [Sch 3/10(1)(a)],

or in the alternative

some information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice a deliberative process and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest, pursuant to s.47(3)(b) [Sch 4/3/4].

Reasons for decision

The reasons for my decision are set out below.

Level 11, 1 William Street Brisbane
Queensland 4000 Australia
GPO Box 69 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
WorkSafe +61 7 3247 4711
Wageline +61 7 3225 2299
Website www.worksafe.qld.gov.au
www.business.qld.gov.au
ABN 13 846 673 994

Section 44(1) states that it is Parliament's intention that if an access application is made to an agency for a document, the agency should decide to give access to the document unless giving access would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. This objective is also referred to in section 49(1) which requires a decision maker to give access to a document unless disclosure would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

I am cognisant of the factors required to be considered when making an access decision that are contained in the provisions of Part 5 of Chapter 3 of the Act.

Exempt information - ongoing investigation

A decision maker may refuse access to information that exempt information under the Act.

Section 47 of the Act sets out a number of grounds on which an agency may refuse access. One of those grounds is section 47(3)(a) which states that access to a document may be refused to the extent the document comprises exempt information under section 48. Section 48(2) provides that Schedule 3 sets out the types of information the disclosure of which Parliament has considered would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

One type of information listed in Schedule 3, the disclosure of which Parliament has considered would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest, is item 10, which states:

Law enforcement or public safety information

(1) *Information is exempt information if its disclosure could reasonably be expected to -*

(a) *prejudice the investigation of a contravention or possible contravention of the law;....*

I am advised that the incident that occurred in April 2018 is currently being investigated. To ensure the integrity of the investigation, I believe that no information should be released at this stage. I consider that the disclosure of any information relating to the incident could reasonably be expected to prejudice the investigation.

I have decided to refuse you access to information on three pages on the basis that disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the investigation of a possible contravention of the law.

Contrary to public interest information

Section 49 sets out the steps required to be taken when making a decision, which includes consideration of the factors listed in Schedule 4, to determine whether disclosure of the information within scope of the application would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

You have sought access the initial documents that record each occasion when an inspector was abused by a trade union official, organiser or delegate. The documents in scope of this application consists of email communications between WH&SQ officers and their supervisors, and entries made by WH&SQ officers in their official notebooks. The documents contain information relating to:

- (a) activities on a site on a particular date, which I have ruled "out of scope" because the information does not relate to when an inspector was abused by a trade union official. It relates to activities before or after the abuse occurred and is totally unrelated to the abuse incident.

The documents in scope, both the emails and the notebook entries, contain WH&SQ officers' records of visits to worksites. This information contains the business information of the entity, issues raised or considered by a union official or WH&SQ, and responses by the entity. I have considered this

information "out of scope" because it does not relate to the information sought. If this information was sought, I would have to consider the public interest in the release of information that contains various third parties' personal or business information, which would involve the public interest factors favouring disclosure of information that records a routine WH&SQ site visit, and consult with the third party entities about the release of their business information to the applicant.

- (b) third parties' activities prior to or after the abuse incidents, which is various third parties' personal information;
- (c) the nature of each abuse incident, which consists of who said or did what, and is the personal information of various of third parties;
- (d) officers' opinions or views, and emotions, about the incidents, which is the officer's personal information.

The personal information includes: the names and identifying particulars [by referring to the union official as "(name of union) official" rather than by name] and activities of union officials, the names and activities of WH&SQ officers, other parties' names and activities, and a third party's opinion. In other words, the personal information consists of what a third party said or did.

The business information includes the names of unions, the name of an entity in charge of a worksite, an entity's activities being undertaken on a worksite, issues raised about an entity's worksite, and discussions between an entity representative and WH&SQ and others.

The only information in these documents which I believe gives rise to a consideration of whether its disclosure would be contrary to the public interest is the personal information of third parties and the business information of a third parties.

1. Irrelevant factors including any factor mentioned in schedule 4, part 1

In making my decision, I have not considered any of the factors listed in part 1 because they are irrelevant. The only factors I have taken into account are those noted in this written decision.

2. Factors favouring nondisclosure, including any factor mentioned in schedule 4, part 3 or 4.

One factor listed in part 3, which favours nondisclosure of personal information, is section 3 which states:

"Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy."

Above, I identified the personal information contained in the documents in scope as:

- * third parties' activities prior to or after the alleged abusive behaviour;
- * what constituted the alleged abusive behaviour, which consists of who said or did what; and
- * the expression of an opinion, view, or emotion.

The fact that an individual is employed in the public sector is generally afford limited weight in protecting their right to privacy vis-a-vis their routine day to day work duties and activities. It is alleged that inspectors have been abused by union officials in the workplace. I do not believe that the fact that an inspector has been subjected to abusive behaviour is information that comes within an inspector's routine day to day work duties and activities. Hence, I believe that disclosing the name of an inspector who has been subjected to abusive behaviour would prejudice his or her right to privacy.

In relation to one of the incidents, there is an investigation being undertaken into the incident. At this stage, because the investigation is ongoing, I believe the release of a union official's name or any identifying particular would, at this stage, prejudice his or her right to privacy.

In relation to the names of third parties who are employees or who hold management positions with an entity on a worksite, particularly in the context of the information in scope, and for the same reasons that relate to union officials and inspectors, I believe the release of their personal information would prejudice his or her right to privacy.

I am not aware of whether or not any action taken was taken with respect to the alleged incidents of abusive behaviour, other than the April 2018 incident. This is another factors that I have considered which favours the nondisclosure of the names or identifying particulars of third parties allegedly involved.

For the above reasons, I have attached significant weight to the public interest in protecting the names and identifying particulars of all of the individual's mentioned in the the documents in scope.

A factor listed in part 3, which favours nondisclosure of information that relates to an entity, is item 2, which states:

"Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the private, business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of an entity."

As identified above, the third party business information includes:

- * the name of an entity engaged in an activity on a worksite;
- * the location of the worksite; and
- * senior officers of the entity.

For the reasons referred to above with respect to personal information, the same considerations apply to protecting an entity's right to privacy. Accordingly, I have attached significant weight to this factor which favours the nondisclosure of information which would identify any entity referred to in the documents in scope.

Another factor listed in part 3, which favours nondisclosure of information, is item 20 which states:

"Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to prejudice a deliberative process of government."

This factor is also listed in part 4 of Schedule 4 which lists 'Factors favouring nondisclosure in the public interest because of public interest harm in disclosure.' Item 3 provides:

"(1) Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to cause a public interest harm through disclosure of -

- (a) an opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or*
- (b) a consultation or deliberation that has taken place;*

in the course of, or for, the deliberative processes involved in the functions of government."

The incident relating to the alleged behaviour in April 2018 is currently being deliberated on.

"Deliberation" can be defined as the examination of an issue which involves weighing up the reasons for and against a course of action; and the deliberative process may be explained as a process allowing parties to exchange information which will inform the decision making. Deliberative process information means information disclosing an opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded, or a consultation that has taken place in the course of or for the purpose of the deliberative process involved in the functions of government.

The factors in Schedule 4, which I referred to above, acknowledge the public interest in deliberative process information not being disclosed during the course of deliberations if the release of the information will prejudice or cause a public interest harm to the deliberative process. In my view, the release of any information at this stage has the potential to prejudice the deliberation. The prejudice may be to the process itself; that is, the release of information may have a number of consequences, including parties making further submissions. During a deliberative process, a matter should be allowed to be considered without other parties wanting access to information and commenting on the information during the process. To secure the integrity of the deliberative process currently being undertaken, I believe that the disclosure of the information relating to the incident could reasonably be expected to prejudice this process. Alternatively, I believe that it could be argued that the release of the information could reasonably be expected to cause a public interest harm.

3. Factors favouring disclosure, including any factor mentioned in schedule 4, part 2.

In enacting the RTI Act, it was Parliament's intention that the Act be administered with a pro-disclosure bias. The stated object of the Act is to give a right of access to government information unless, on balance, it would be contrary to the public interest to do so.

A factor in Part 2 of Schedule 4 that I have considered which favours disclosure is item 2, which states:

"Disclosure of information could reasonably be expected to contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of serious interest."

There has in recent years been public discussion, and a number of news articles and papers written about the verbal and physical abuse of health care professionals in hospital emergency wards, ambulance officers, paramedics, and police officers. The reason for the concern is the impact that exposure to occupational violence has on a worker's mental and physical health. There has also been some discussion in the media about the behaviour of union officials on worksites. I note from various news sites the reports of union officials being prosecuted and fined for abusive behaviour in the workplace.

I believe there is a public interest in releasing information that has been de-identified that reveals the nature and extent of the the alleged abuse of inspectors whilst carrying out their routine day to day work.

4. In balancing the public interest factors discussed above, as required by section 49(3)(e), I consider there is a public interest in the nature and extent of the alleged abuse of inspectors being disclosed, however, I have attached significant weight to protecting third parties' right to privacy. I believe the competing public interests can be satisfied by releasing a de-identified copy of the nature of the alleged behaviour of each incident.

On balance, I have decided that the disclosure of a third party or entity's name or identifying particulars, worksite location, the expression of a personal opinion and emotional state, and a third party's activities prior to or after the abuse, would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest, and the information has been deleted from the documents being released.

Schedule of relevant documents

A schedule of documents is attached.

Processing charges

I am obliged by the Act to provide you with a Charges Estimate Notice before the end of the processing period. The processing time for the non-personal documents of this application is less than five hours, and accordingly, there is no processing charge.

Access charges

You have elected to receive a copy of the documents by email for which there is no charge.

Disclosure Log

The Office of Industrial Relations is obliged under the legislation to notify you that information released under the RTI Act that does not contain an applicant's personal information must be considered for publication in a disclosure log.

Review rights

You are entitled to seek a review under the Act if you disagree with this decision. If you wish to seek an internal review by the department, please advise this office in writing within 20 business days from the date of this letter.

However, should you wish to bypass the internal review option you are able to seek an external review by the Information Commissioner. Your application for an external review must be lodged with the Information Commissioner in writing within 20 business days from the date of this letter. Applications for an external review should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner
PO Box 10143
Adelaide Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000 telephone: 3405 1111

Your faithfully



Principal Decision Maker
Office of Industrial Relations Right to Information

tel: 

RTI file 180163
Schedule of Documents

			Access decision Chapter 3 Part 5		
page number	date	document	full release	partially release	refuse access
<i>North Central Queensland region</i>					
1	10 February 2018	email		Sch 4/3/3	
2 3 4	4 April 2018	email email notebook entry			Sch 4/3/3 Sch 3/10(1)(a) alt. Sch 4/3/4
<i>South West Queensland region</i>					
5	7 February 2018	email		Sch 4/3/3 Sch 4/3/2	
6	8 February 2018	email		Sch 4/3/3 Sch 4/3/2	
7		notebook entry		Sch 4/3/3 Sch 4/3/2	
8		diary note		Sch 4/3/3 Sch 4/3/2	
9	12 February 2018	email		Sch 4/3/3 Sch 4/3/2	
10	13 February 2018	notebook entry		Sch 4/3/3 Sch 4/3/2	

Out of scope

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/2

10.02.2018

Sch 4/3/3

official

Sch 4/3/3

stated that I was [REDACTED] useless"

Out of scope

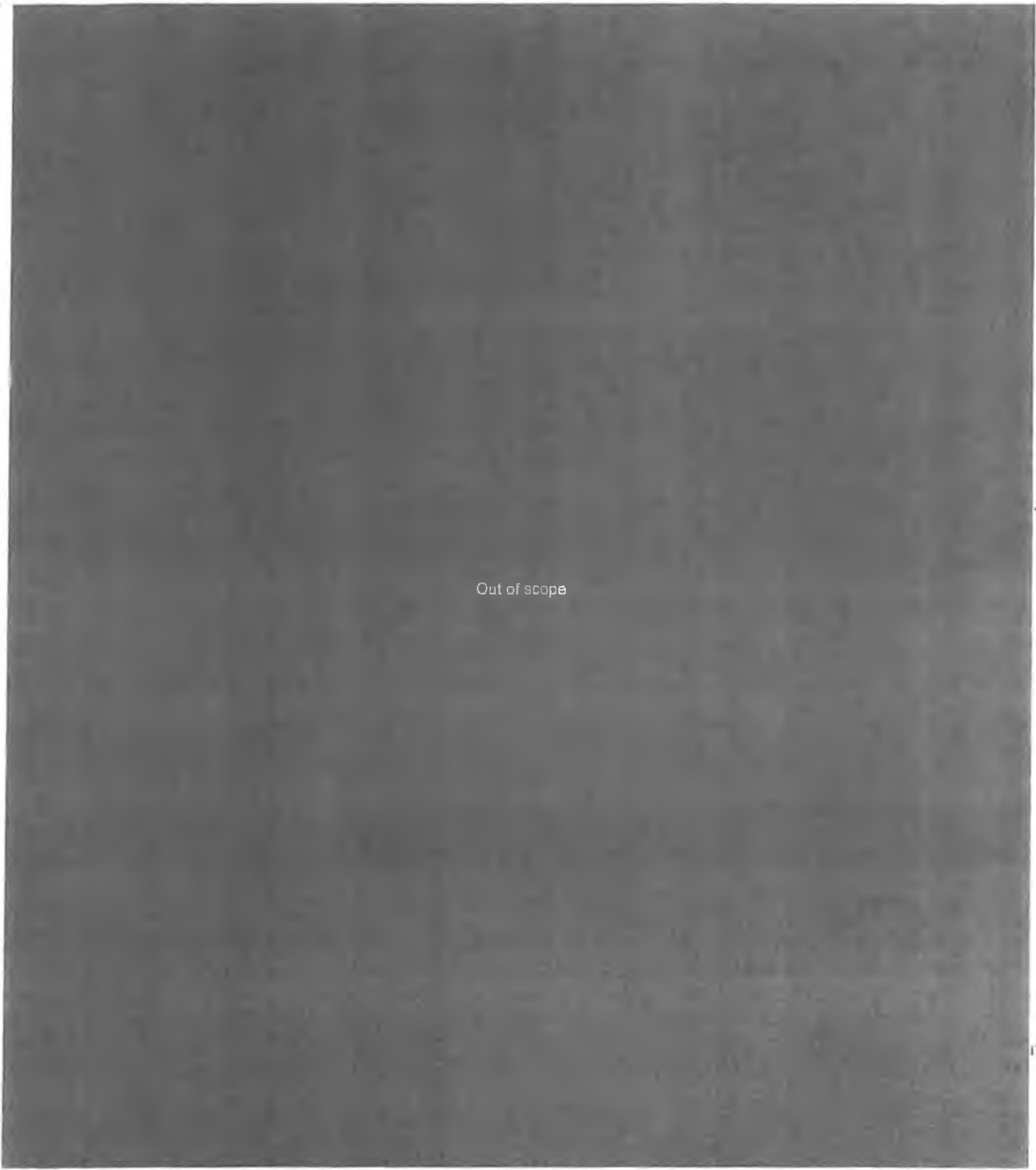
Out of scope

sch.3/10(1)(a)

sch.3/10(1)(a)

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3



s

nt

Out of scope

it

[Redacted line] sch 3/10(1)(a)

[Redacted line] sch 3/10(1)(a)

[Redacted line] sch 3/10(1)(a) Sch 4/3/3

[Redacted line] Sch 4/3/3

Out of scope

Out of scope

Sch 3/10(1)(a)

Sch 3/10(1)(c)

Sch 4/3/3

Out of scope

I just want to again raise with you that I still have significant concerns, the same ones that I raised with you during our phone call on the evening of the 7th of February 2018 upon leaving the [Sch 4/3/2] site in [Sch 4/3/2] following a [Sch 4/3/2] interaction, and again the following day after A/Lead Inspector [Sch 4/3/3] was verbally abused by a [Sch 4/3/4] Organiser [Sch 4/3/3]

Sch 4/3/3

Out of scope

- Sch 4/3/2 organiser Sch 4/3/3 was swearing at and abusing Sch 4/3/3 in front of approximately eight staff. He then turned to Inspector Sch 4/3/3 pointing his finger at Sch 4/3/3 and said words to the effect of I am putting you on notice for letting this happen. This was a threatening and intimidating experience.

Out of scope

Out of scope

1409hrs

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/2

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3

Sch 4/3/3

Out of scope

Out of scope

8

Thursday

Sch. 1/3/2

39 - 326 Week 2

Out of scope

and [redacted] stated "you can't let them do that!! You're a [redacted] disgrace!! I'm holding you accountable for their actions!! I'm putting you on notice!!"

Out of scope

I would like to bring it to your attention that on the 12th February 2018, I attended

Sch 4/3/2

On arrival to site I was meet by Sch 4/3/3 permit holders, we engaged in several conversations throughout the day trying to resolve safety issues on site. During these conversations several comments were made directed at me in front of the work group implying that I was being paid by

Sch 4/3/3

On the 13th January 2018 still in the conducting an inspection of the work area with the elected safety committee

Sch 4/3/2

and Permit holders

Sch 4/3/3

and Sch 4/3/3

While discussing safety issues on the site with Sch 4/3/3 and Sch 4/3/3, Sch 4/3/3 yelled out from approx. 20meters away "Ha you inspector get your arse over here and start writing out some notices" I advised that I will be there in a minute as I was talking to the above he then yelled back "that's all you ever do".

Sch 4/3/3

Out of scope

122 discussed at

123

meeting. Officials stated
they were going to complain
that WMSD inspectors

Sch 4/3/3 + myself were
obstructing them. They then

They became aggressive
and yelled at myself

+ Insp. Sch 4/3/3 again.

I left room and

Spoke to Sch 4/3/2

and continued they were
printing out requested

documents for Sch 4/3/2

officials Sch 4/3/3 +

Sch 4/3/3 +

Out of scope



Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

Tabled by: Hon Grace Grace MP
At: Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
Time/date: 1:27pm 02/08/18
Signature: St Manderson

18 MAY 2018

The Honourable Craig Laundry MP
Minister for Small and Family Business,
the Workplace and Deregulation
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7110
Email: education@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Email: industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write to you seeking relevant information about the level and adequacy of resourcing for the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) in Queensland, and your assurance that the FWO is able to investigate properly all complaints received, including by inspectors visiting the workplace in person when required.

As is well understood, the Commonwealth has jurisdiction over industrial relations in private sector workplaces in Queensland. However, as you would appreciate, the Queensland Government and I, as Minister for Industrial Relations, maintain a strong interest in the welfare of all Queensland workers, regardless of whether they are covered in the state or federal industrial relations jurisdiction.

In that respect, I am extremely concerned to hear the regular reports and complaints my office receives from Queensland workers who have been poorly treated in their workplace. This can range from cases of gross underpayment, wage theft, bullying and sexual harassment. The letters my office receive would in all likelihood be just a small proportion of the number of such cases playing out in Queensland and across the country on a daily basis.

As a matter of practice, in responding to such matters, my office contacts the person concerned to see if there is any assistance we can provide and my office then refers these matters to your office when they fall under the Commonwealth jurisdiction and the FWO.

The particular matter I wish to raise with you is that there is a pattern in the correspondence we receive of workers contacting us after FWO has not been able to assist them, at least not to the worker's satisfaction. I understand there may be reasons to explain this, but as a pattern has started to emerge, I thought it appropriate to raise with you as early as possible.

I therefore seek your assurance that the FWO is resourced sufficiently to investigate all complaints received, including by visiting the workplace in person.

To that end, I request the following for the past five financial years:

- the number and location of FWO inspectors in Queensland
- the number of complaints the FWO receive in Queensland
- the number of complaints that are investigated
- the number of workplaces that are visited
- the outcomes of investigations – a breakdown of cases resolved, no further action, discontinued, prosecutions etc.

I also seek assurances that all complaints will be investigated rigorously. To take one example that particularly concerned me, an international student contacted my office last year and said that the FWO had told him they would not investigate his complaint unless he revealed his identity.

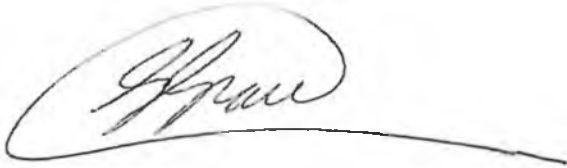
If true, this is extremely concerning, especially given the amount of evidence of international students being exploited by employers and the difficulties they have in revealing their identity.

Finally, I would also like to propose a practice whereby your office reports back to my office on the outcomes of matters we have referred. At the moment, we refer matters but have no record of what happens subsequently.

I look forward to your response to the concerns I have raised. They are not to meant to discount much of the good work that the FWO does, but as I indicated, I am very concerned to hear regular reports of Queensland workers being exploited and it is vital that we have an assurance that the FWO is able to do everything possible to ensure Queensland workers can pursue a remedy when this does occur, and that as far as possible such cases are prevented from happening again in future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you would like to discuss this further or alternatively your staff can contact Ms Sharon Durham, Chief of Staff of my office, on (07) 3719 7110.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

Ref: 18/249384, F0000004873, R0000045820

Tabled by: Hon Shannon Fentiman MP
 At: Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
 Time/date: 2.32pm 02/08/18
 Signature: [Signature]

LNP'S COSTINGS REPORT

SAVINGS AND REPRIORITISATION MEASURES

OPERATING:

Policy Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Reallocation Accelerate Advance Queensland	--	(1.50)	--	--	(1.50)
Reallocation Advancing Small Business Strategy Queensland	--	(1.50)	--	--	(1.50)
Reallocation from Back to Work	--	(13.49)	--	--	(13.49)
Reallocation from Jobs Queensland	--	(10.00)	--	--	(10.00)
Reallocation from Skilling Queenslanders for Work	--	(42.00)	--	--	(42.00)
Reallocation from Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy	--	(5.00)	--	--	(5.00)
Reallocation from Townsville Water Security Measures	(10.00)	(15.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(225.00)
Reallocation from Multicultural and Events Projects	--	(1.00)	--	--	(1.00)
Reallocation from Domestic and Family Violence Response Development of New and Enhanced Services	--	(2.50)	(2.00)	--	(4.50)
Reallocation from Community Sustainability Grants	--	(4.00)	--	--	(4.00)
Reallocation from Climate Change Strategy Funding	(5.00)	(6.66)	(6.70)	(1.70)	(20.06)
Reallocation from Climate Change Adaptation	--	(5.00)	--	--	(5.00)
Reallocation from Transition of 17 Year Olds to the Youth Justice System	(19.03)	(42.60)	(43.76)	(44.82)	(150.21)
Reallocation from Reinstating Diversionary Processes	--	(4.00)	--	--	(4.00)
Reallocation from Department of Corrections	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)	(2.00)
Reallocation from Media and Communications Budgets of Hospital and Health Services	(0.60)	(0.60)	(0.60)	(0.60)	(2.40)

LNP'S COSTINGS REPORT

Policy Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Reallocation from Passenger Transport Facilities Program	--	(0.65)	--	--	(0.65)
Reallocation from Digital Archive Program	--	(7.69)	--	--	(7.69)
Reallocation from User Choice VET Investment Plan	--	(6.58)	(7.09)	(6.58)	(20.25)
Reallocation from Advance Queensland	--	(4.46)	--	--	(4.46)
Whole of Government - Efficiency Program	--	(532.20)	(543.24)	(556.45)	(1,631.89)
Reallocation from Strategic Resources Exploration Program	--	(10.54)	(7.44)	(3.05)	(21.03)
Total	(35.13)	(717.46)	(711.33)	(713.71)	(2,177.62)

CAPITAL:

Policy Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Reprioritisation from QTRIP	--	(45.98)	(45.98)	--	(91.96)
Reprioritisation from Camera Detection Offence Program	--	(0.84)	(0.84)	(0.84)	(2.52)
Reprioritisation from Racing Infrastructure Fund	--	(5.00)	(5.00)	(5.00)	(15.00)
Reprioritisation from Get Playing Plus	--	(7.34)	(7.34)	(7.34)	(22.01)
Reprioritisation from Cross River Rail	--	(262.00)	(1,261.00)	(1,040.00)	(2,563.00)
Reprioritisation from Stadiums Queensland	--	(3.30)	(3.30)	(3.40)	(10.00)
Reprioritisation from Transition of 17 Year Olds to the Youth Justice System	(16.89)	--	--	--	(16.89)
Total	(16.89)	(324.45)	(1,323.45)	(1,056.58)	(2,721.37)

DEPRECIATION:

Policy Initiative	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Reprioritisation from QTRIP	--	--	(2.30)	(4.60)	(6.90)
Total	0.00	0.00	(2.30)	(4.60)	(6.90)

Tabled by: Hon Shannon Fentiman MP
At: Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
Time/date: 2.32pm 02/08/18
Signature: [Signature]

Transcript

Station: ABC Southern Queensland

Program: Drive

Compere: Sheridan Stewart

Interviewee: Queensland Opposition MP Fiona Simpson; Queensland
Employment & Small Business Minister Shannon Fentiman

Date: 27 June 2018

Duration: 8.06

E&OE

SHERIDAN STEWART:

We're joined in the studio now by Shadow Minister Fiona Simpson. Welcome.

FIONA SIMPSON:

Thank-you very much.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

Miss Simpson, the program was never intended to run beyond this point, so why is the ending causing so much upset?

FIONA SIMPSON:

Well, two reasons. One, it has continued, but it is also retrospectively changed the goal posts for those who previously were entitled to employ those two-young people who had been on disability pensions in Nambour for example. And so, the goal posts have changed from what those employers had been advised by the department itself and now they can't access it. And those two-young people are at real risk of losing their jobs.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

So why has the Back To Work program and the other Back To Work programs run through the state government; they're obviously important for job seekers and new businesses, how does that play out?

FIONA SIMPSON:

Well you want consistency for not only employers but for people who are being employed. And the government changing the rules hurts people very very badly. In this case with two very vulnerable workers. But there are more cases that we are becoming aware of. The state government tried to say oh well we've taken southeast Queensland out of it [inaudible] there's better employment options for young people there. Well they're speaking with forked tongue because I've looked at the youth unemployment figures throughout Queensland and there are some areas with horrendously high statistics that do need appropriate attention.

There's others who also have half the levels of the unemployment figures for youth of the Sunshine Coast and yet they still have this program. So it doesn't make sense. It really is a very bizarre and cruel way. One to change a program and make it available for some and not others, even though those vulnerable are the same. And two, to retrospectively roll back what was available within this financial year, catching people.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

So this wasn't among the group of employment programs that the LNP were looking at scrapping at the last election?

FIONA SIMPSON:

We were not scrapping back the work. We had taken the same amount of money for all the training programs, and we're still applying it to training. There was a portion of Back To Work that we were going to target more at some of the young hard to employ young people. But it was still there available for employment programs.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

And how do you feel should programs like this be allocated?

FIONA SIMPSON:

Well it shouldn't be as we've seen with a real harm created to businesses who had signed on with young people who are now looking at having to sack them. So the government should be backing young people, not sacking them. Secondly training is obviously very important and the Skilling For Queenslanders For Work, we recognise that has more of a training focus. It's not the same program. The Minister has said oh, there's still these other programs. They're not the same program. It's not a like for like, opportunity for this business in Nambour and many others to flip over to a different program. Because some businesses are employing people who don't a Certificate III to get a job. But they're vulnerable, and accessing a job is a big deal and changes their life, but they don't need an apprenticeship. Others do need apprenticeships. It's not a like for like that the government has said that they can go and access another program. It's just not actually true.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

Shadow Minister Fiona Simpson thanks for your time on that this afternoon.

FIONA SIMPSON:

Thank-you.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

We'll go now to the Minister. We're joined from...via phone that is from the Torres Strait by Employment Minister Shannon Fentiman. Good afternoon, how do you respond to Miss Simpson's comments there Minister?

MINISTER FENTIMAN:

Oh good afternoon. Look I wanted to be very clear from outside – I heard Tony’s comments there from Nambour. Anyone that made an application while this program was going is still entitled to the program. So, I’m not quite sure what Fiona was talking about there about changing the rules. As you said in your intro – this program was always due to end on this date. But anyone that made an application and got their application in before that date will absolutely continue to get the benefits of our Back To Work program. And look, I understand it is such a popular program. What we’ve decided to do is extended the program in those parts of southeast Queensland that are experiencing high unemployment. So, things are looking okay on the Sunny Coast I’ve got to say. They’re got a below national average unemployment rate, and that’s good. There’s always more to do, but we’ve decided to extend this program with an extra \$20 million dollars for those parts of southeast Queensland that are really struggling. And of course, this program will continue in the regions as well because we know they’re doing it tough.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

So why is it then that the Sunshine Coast which has actually seen a rise in youth unemployment loses a program while Mackay which has seen a drop in youth unemployment and has lower youth unemployment gets to keep it?

MINISTER FENTIMAN:

Well I would say on the Sunny Coast youth unemployment is a concern, but what we are seeing is that we want to get more young people into our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. If we can get young people into a traineeship or an apprenticeship and set them up for a successful career, then that is going to really help. And that’s why the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is absolutely continuing. And on the Sunny Coast we have seen over 1200 young people get into job ready training and more than 640 have gotten work as a result of that program. So that’s a really tailored program to deal with youth unemployment that will continue on the Sunny Coast. And as for regional Queensland, the program was first designed to apply in regional Queensland because we know those regional communities are doing it tough. We have seen some positive signs in some of our regional communities, but we want to make sure that that program continues for them.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

I guess the question that is top of mind is if the program was so good, why stop it?

MINISTER FENTIMAN:

Well as I said, it was always slated to finish this year, but we have made that decision to continue it. And we have so many other great programs that are getting results in the Sunshine Coast community. I did want to touch on one thing that Fiona mentioned about the LNP’s commitment to Back to Work. Their election costings slashed this program by more than \$13 million. So, under the LNP, that’s what Back to Work was going to face – a \$13 million cut. And of course, the LNP were going to scrap Skilling Queenslanders for Work altogether. So I understand that Fiona Simpson has concerns for her own local community

about youth unemployment, but unfortunately her party's election costings really did not bear that out.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

Thanks so much for your time this afternoon, Minister. Appreciate it. I hope you enjoy your time in the Torres Strait.

MINISTER FENTIMAN:

Yes, thank you. And I've also asked the Department just to get in touch with Tony just to reassure him that any applications received before the end of this financial year will continue. So just wanted to let him and your listeners know that as well.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

Thanks very much. Employment Minister Shannon Fentiman there. Fiona Simpson's still in the studio with me. Did you want to add anything to that, Fiona?

FIONA SIMPSON:

Yes, well the Minister has changed again – they've flipped again because her department was telling people this week that the Government changed their policy and businesses on the Sunshine Coast could not access it unless they'd applied before budget day on June 12. Now that's been told by her own department. So they ought to come clean about this. This hurts people – when you stuff people around and mislead people. Secondly, we did not slash Skilling Queensland for Work in our election commitments that we went to at the last election. Thirdly, Back to Work funding was still there but under a targeted youth employment program. We just want to see people given a fair go wherever they live in this state.

SHERIDAN STEWART:

Fiona Simpson, thanks for joining us on the program this afternoon.

FIONA SIMPSON:

Thank you.

[ENDS]

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Tabled by: Hon Shannon Fentiman MP
 At: Estimates Hearing (EESBL) Events
 Time/date: 2:32pm 02/08/18
 Signature: Shannon Fentiman

[Online Office](#)[Contact](#)

LABOR CUTS PUSH YOUNG PEOPLE BACK TO DOLE

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Labor's decision to axe the Back to Work program in Southeast Queensland is throwing vulnerable young people back on the dole, the Liberal National Party warned today.

Shadow Employment Minister Fiona Simpson and Nicklin MP Marty Hunt spoke out while visiting a Sunshine Coast cafe where the jobs of two young people with disabilities are at risk because of the cancellation of the program.

"It is shameful that young people who have battled adversity to get a job could now lose that opportunity," Ms Simpson said.

"Youth unemployment on the Sunshine Coast is at 14 per cent and rising and yet Labor is axing a program that helps young people get a job.

"We should be backing our young people – not sacking them.

"The plans of small businesses have been thrown into chaos and the hopes of jobseekers have been shattered.

"Annastacia Palaszczuk's Budget has brought nothing but heartbreak to the Sunshine Coast."

The LNP successfully fought to have the Back to Work program extended across Southeast Queensland last year, but with the State Election now over Labor decided to cancel the program for the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Brisbane and Toowoomba in the State Budget.

Nambour business Taco Boy recently took on two new workers aged 21 and 23 through disability employment services and had been planning to make the pair permanent employees through a Back to Work funding grant.

"I was devastated when I was told the program had been scrapped for the Sunshine Coast," said business owner Virginia Homer.

"We are so proud of new recruits. They are amazing young people and they love working here.

"With Back to Work we could have given them a lasting job, but now I don't know how we can.

"I just want the Government to think again and give us all a chance to build a better future.

"Nambour is struggling and it's not fair that young people here are being denied the chance that other Queenslanders get."

Back to Work offers grants of up to \$20,000 to employers who hire eligible jobseekers, including young people and mature age workers.

LNP Member for Nicklin Marty Hunt, a regular Taco Boy customer, urged Sunshine Coast businesses to lobby the Palaszczuk Labor Government over the issue.

"A lot of businesses are struggling in Nambour and Annastacia Palaszczuk should be helping them – not hurting them," Mr Hunt said.

"Why should young people on the Sunshine Coast be treated differently to those in Gympie?

"I just want the businesses and workers I represent to get a fair go."

Category: Local News 26 June, 2018

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Tabled by: Hon Shannon Fentiman MP
 At: Estimates Hearing (EESBC)
 Time/date: 2:41pm 02/08/18
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by **ANTON ROSE**

67

4

11th Jan 2018 1:00 PM

LEADER of the Queensland opposition Deb Frecklington yesterday claimed in a letter to the editor sent to *The Chronicle* that unemployed Toowoomba residents wait 64 weeks to find work.

"New figures have shown that on average, job seekers in Toowoomba are spending 64 weeks looking for a job," Ms Frecklington said.

"Queenslanders are facing the longest job search wait times in the country with the time taken to find a job more than doubling since Anastacia Palaszczuk became Premier."

LNP member for Toowoomba South David Janetzki also ran with that same figure in an interview with *The Chronicle* yesterday.

"It takes longer for someone in Toowoomba to find a job than it does for the earth to revolve around the sun," he said before being corrected.



David Janetzki MP

@DavidJanetzkiMP

64 weeks to find a job isn't good enough for our region. The re-elected Labor govt needs to focus less on Brisbane and raising taxes and more on the potential of the regions - especially Toowoomba!

7 News Toowoomba @7NewsToowoomba

New research reveals it can take more than a year to secure a job in the Toowoomba region, which is the longest wait in Queensland.

@CarissaKemp_7 #7News





6:58 PM - Jan 10, 2018

4 See David Janetzki MP's other Tweets

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, that figure of 64 weeks was a monthly average for November last year - with the actual average wait time for Toowoomba jobseekers to find a job in 2017 being 33 weeks.

That is one of the lowest in Queensland.

"You will see that the month to month movements across many of the regions can be quite volatile," an ABS spokesman said.

"For example, while for November 2017, the median duration was 64 weeks, it was 44 weeks in the previous month and as low as 5 weeks in January 2017.

"Toowoomba has hovered around 25-30 weeks over the past 2-3 years but has increased recently to around 33 weeks."

FACT CHECK: Misleading, but true for November 2017