



ESTIMATES COMMITTEE F

2001

1. INTRODUCTION

The sessional orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 30 May 2001 established seven estimates committees to consider proposed expenditure under the Appropriation Bill 2001 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2001. Each committee was given the responsibility for scrutinising the estimates for particular ministerial portfolios.

The Legislative Assembly appointed Estimates Committee F to examine and report on the proposed expenditure for the organisational units within the portfolios of the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and the Minister for the Arts, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industrial Relations.

The committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, 18 July 2001 to take evidence from the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and the Minister for Arts, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industrial Relations and their respective officers. The transcript of the public hearing can be accessed at the Queensland Parliament's Hansard web-page at www.parliament.qld.gov.au.

For the purposes of examining the proposed expenditure for the organisational units allocated to it, the committee considered information obtained at the public hearing in conjunction with:

- Budget Papers and Ministerial Portfolio Statements (MPS) tabled by the Treasurer;
- written responses to questions on notice submitted to the Ministers by the committee prior to the public hearing; and
- documents tabled at the hearing and a written response from the Minister for Education to a question taken on notice at the hearing.

Accompanying this report is a volume of "Additional Information" presented by the

committee to the Legislative Assembly. The additional information includes the minutes of the committee's meetings, documents tabled at the hearing and answers to questions on notice asked before and during the public hearing.

2. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND YOUTH AND THE ARTS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Department of Employment, Training and Youth has a critical role in the Government's aim of improving the economic and social outcomes for the Queensland community through the creation of additional and sustainable jobs and providing people with the opportunity to increase their skills.

The total appropriation for the Department of Employment, Training and Youth is \$588 578 000.

The role of Arts Queensland is to build and enrich Queensland's arts and cultural life through policy-making, funding and advocacy for arts and cultural development in Queensland.

The total appropriation for Arts Queensland is \$164 775 000. Arts Queensland was established as a Department on 1 March 2001. The MPS advises that the Estimated Actuals for 2000-01 of \$51 431 000 reflect the final four months of operations in 2000-01 financial year only. Prior to this date the various components which currently comprise Arts Queensland were administratively attached to other government departments.

The MPS provides the following output summary.

OUTPUT	TOTAL COST \$'000
Employment Initiatives	107,521
Vocational Education, Training and Youth Services	724,573
Assistance to the Arts	127,976

2.2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the budget as proposed by the Department of Employment, Training and Youth for the 2001-02 year include:

- \$5 million to the *Get Set for Work Program*, which will target school leavers in communities with high youth unemployment;
- \$10 million each year for 2001-02 and 2002-03 to the *Youth for the Environment and Local Communities Program* which gives 15-24 year olds nationally accredited qualifications through work in their local communities, mainly in the areas of environmental protection, horticulture and waste management;
- \$5.4 million over three years for the *Experience Pays Program* to boost job opportunities for long-term mature aged job seekers;
- \$1.5 million over three years for the *Back to Work Program* to help the mature aged unemployed gain more job search and information technology skills;
- \$10 million to fund the establishment of the Aviation Centre of Excellence;
- \$2 billion in training over three years;
- \$2 million to the *Youth Access Program*;
- \$5 million over three years to expand School Based Apprenticeships and Training; and
- \$168 million in Capital Works.

Highlights in the budget as proposed by Arts Queensland for the 2001-02 year include:

- \$15 million over 4 years to support a range of regional capital infrastructure projects through the Millennium Arts Program;
- \$0.9 million per annum for the ongoing delivery of the Government's youth arts initiative, including the youth radio initiative;
- \$22.6 million allocated to grants from Queensland's arts and cultural industries;
- \$33 million to the Queensland Heritage Trails Network;
- \$1.7 million over two years to the Ipswich Rail Museum;
- an additional \$0.16 million to the Queensland Theatre Company for recurrent operational

costs based on new building developments under the Millennium Arts Program;

- an additional \$1 million per annum to the Pacific Film and Television Commission to fund film incentive programs; and
- improved access to library services for Queensland's Indigenous Communities and Peoples under the State Library of Queensland's \$17.5 million Public Libraries Grant Scheme.

2.3 PUBLIC HEARING

During the public hearing held on 18 July 2001 the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth, and the Minister for the Arts responded to queries from the committee in relation to a wide range of matters, including:

- jobs in the light metals industry;
- the unemployment rate and labour market programs;
- the Community Jobs Plan and Community Employer Assistance Program;
- funding for TAFE colleges;
- the Logan Employment Task Force and plans to develop similar programs in other areas;
- IT and T courses in TAFEs;
- TAFE and non-TAFE sector comparisons relating to the Australian Quality Training Framework and user choice audits;
- the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund;
- completion rates for apprentices and trainees;
- TAFE tutors;
- initiatives to train indigenous artists;
- expanding library services in indigenous communities;
- regional museums;
- the Biennial Festival of Music;
- funding for the Heritage Trails Network;
- funding for expansion of the State Library; and
- regional capital infrastructure projects.

3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education operates the State Education system and administers grants and funding on behalf of the Government to the non-State school sector and universities.

The total appropriation for the Department of Education for 2001-02 is \$4 271 908 000.

The MPS provides the following output summary:

OUTPUT	TOTAL COST \$'000
Preschool Education	112,101
Primary Education	1,942,635
Secondary Education	1,283,045
Students with Special Needs	313,040
Portfolio Services – Assistance to Non-State Education	493
Portfolio Services – Assistance to Tertiary Institutions	6,915

3.2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the budget as proposed for the 2001-02 financial year include:

- an additional 260 new teachers employed from the start of 2002 and at least another 135 teachers will commence in term 1 of 2002;
- \$15 million per year for funding for teachers and teacher aides for students with disabilities;
- \$148 million for literacy and numeracy programs;
- increase in teacher's salaries by 4.5% from 10 April 2002;
- \$3.7 million to the Quality Teacher Program to improve teacher skills and enhance the status of teaching as a profession;
- \$54 million for continuation of the Secondary Schools Renewal Program;
- \$2 million for the final stage of installing the local area network starter kit in every State school; and
- construction of 4 new schools.

3.3 PUBLIC HEARING

During the public hearing held on 18 July 2001 the Minister for Education responded to queries from the committee in relation to a wide range of matters, including:

- behaviour management in schools;
- results of the longitudinal study commissioned in 1997;
- Centres of Excellence for Maths, Science and Technology;

- Commonwealth funding for the Quality Teaching Program and enrolment benchmark adjustment;
- funding for non-government schools;
- funding to assist schools with truancy and suspension programs;
- living away from home allowance;
- the Partners for Success Program;
- outcomes of research into the international student market;
- maintenance of information and communication technologies in schools;
- funding for students with disabilities;
- Flagstone High School;
- assistance to East Timor;
- increases in teacher numbers;
- devolution of responsibility to school principals;
- the Department's Capital Works Program, including new schools, the Secondary Schools Renewal Program and Cool Schools; and
- the P-12 schooling concept and implementation.

4. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The MPS states that the Department of Industrial Relations has been established to further the economic and social objectives of the Queensland Government through the development of policy and the provision of services that contribute to productive, safe and fair jobs.

The total appropriation for the Department of Industrial Relations is \$58 059 000. The MPS reports that the Department of Industrial Relations was created on 1 March 2001. The appropriation for 2000-2001 was included in the former Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

The MPS provides the following output summary:

OUTPUT	TOTAL COST \$'000
Industrial Relations Services	25,073
Administration of the Industrial Court and Commission System	6,057
Workplace Health and Safety Services	40,303

4.2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the budget as proposed by the Department for the 2001-02 financial year include:

- an additional \$4 million for enhanced workplace health and safety services;
- \$0.5 million for development of policy and preparation of legislation to introduce changes to worker's compensation provisions;
- \$0.7 million to establish a public sector on-line college to deliver training to public service employees throughout the State, and an Industry Training Advisory Body specifically for the public sector;
- funding for the development of and support for employment policies that enable workers to achieve a better balance between work and family responsibilities and that create a more family-friendly work environment; and
- \$0.4 million for the establishment of a central bargaining unit to lead the negotiation of the next round of enterprise agreements across the public service.

4.3 PUBLIC HEARING

During the public hearing held on 18 July 2001 the Minister for Industrial Relations responded to queries from the committee in relation to a wide range of matters, including:

- review of the Division of Workplace Health and Safety and the Electrical Safety Office;
- promotion of electrical safety;
- funding for workplace health and safety;
- the role of the Central Bargaining Unit;
- initiatives to assist employees to balance work and family life in both the public and private sector, including parental leave, flexible work practices, and establishing the Queensland Work and Families Awards;
- establishment of an on-line college to train public sector employees;
- establishment of the Industry Training Advisory Board for the Public Sector;
- excessive working hours;
- pay equity;
- youth advocacy in the workplace;
- WorkCover premiums and performance;
- changes to legislation governing long service leave;

- enterprise bargaining in the public sector; and
- review of the public service housing rental policy.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditures, as stated in the Appropriation Bill 2001 for the organisational units within the portfolios referred to Estimates Committee F for examination, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The committee thanks ministers and their staff for their cooperation and assistance during the estimates process.

Karen Struthers MP
Chair

31 July 2001

MEMBERSHIP

Ms Karen Struthers MP (Chair)

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