

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: DISMISSAL

QUESTION 1, PAGE NO 4

The CHAIR: How much did that court case cost to defend?

STEPHEN BRADY: I'll pass across to Ms Tickle, the chief people officer.

JULIE TICKLE: I think we will take on notice how much the court case cost. It was a lengthy investigation and many people were called as witnesses and provided information on the case, but in terms of the amount, we'll need to take it on notice because I don't have it in front of me, Ms Boyd.

The CHAIR: Thank you. I understand there was an initial investigation where a law firm was hired. If you could get me the cost of that, as well as the cost of defending the case, that would be very useful. Have there been any consequences for those TAFE managers who were involved in this unfair dismissal?

ANSWER

The costs to defend the case were covered by iCare NSW and TAFE NSW did not see the invoices associated with this. The cost of the initial investigation was \$105,000.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: DISMISSAL

QUESTION 2, PAGE NO 4

The CHAIR: Can you confirm that those TAFE managers who were involved in that dismissal are still employed by TAFE?

JULIE TICKLE: I'll need to take the question on notice because the person who made the ultimate decision is still employed by TAFE, but there are a number of TAFE managers you refer to, so I'll need to take on notice the specifics and come back to you.

ANSWER

Yes.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: COUNSELLORS**QUESTION 3, PAGE NO 5**

The CHAIR: Are you in a position to say that every TAFE has an onsite counsellor on some days of the week?

JULIE TICKLE: No, I would not be in a position to say that. We would need to take that on notice and provide more information. What I can say is that every TAFE campus and every student at TAFE has access to counselling. Whether it is in person, via the phone or using Teams, which is the portal we use, every student has access to counselling.

The CHAIR: I appreciate that, and that's good, but the nature of trauma from sexual assault is that people sometimes need to see somebody in person, or they're really not willing to take that step. There are also people who are worried about security concerns, and there all sorts of other reasons. Can you tell me how many TAFE campuses don't have any onsite counselling?

JULIE TICKLE: We would need to take that on notice and come back.

ANSWER

All current and prospective TAFE NSW students at all locations and online have access to professional services, either face to face on-site, through online meeting platforms or via telephone to the TAFE NSW Counsellor and Career Development statewide network. While some campuses may not have a permanent on-site Counsellor, TAFE NSW Counsellors travel to various locations as needed.

In February 2024, TAFE NSW introduced a Same Day Response Team providing direct assistance to students and staff with an urgent Counselling support need. This service works in collaboration with TAFE NSW business-as-usual counselling support.

Additionally, TAFE NSW Counselling and Career Development services facilitate connections to external professional services to ensure comprehensive support for all students.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: TRAVEL EXPENSES

QUESTION 4, PAGE NO 6

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: The overall total for travel and expenses for the last financial year was \$700,000. Do you know how that compares to previous years?

STEPHEN BRADY: It's a significant reduction.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I'm happy for you to provide that on notice.

Mr STEVE WHAN: We might take that on notice.

ANSWER

In FY23/24 TAFE NSW Senior Executives were responsible for costs of \$724,649. This was a 31% reduction from FY22/23 where costs were \$1,051,137.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: TRAVEL EXPENSES**QUESTION 5, PAGE NO 7**

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Can I ask just for a bit of clarity? The information we have, I think there was one trip to Abu Dhabi and two to Shanghai for educational exports. Is that going to look at the quality of the courses? What was that about? Then Manila and Beijing, there's one to each of those in the information that we've been given through GIPAA.

STEPHEN BRADY: I think I have to take on notice what the purpose for each individual one was.

ANSWER

Abu Dhabi (May 2023) - visit foreign government bodies and meet with clients in person; meet with potential funding organisations to develop further training opportunities for both offshore and study tours; and pursue continuous business with existing and new partners.

Shanghai (Trip 1 June 2023) - (Shanghai listed on travel request as it is a transit city to Ningbo where the partner college is located). Represent TAFE NSW at the graduation ceremony at Ningbo City College (NCC); maintain and enhance new and existing relationships with the Chinese partners (Shijiazhuang Vocational College of Technology and Information (SVCTI) and explore opportunities for expansion; visit partner college campuses and meet with senior management at the local colleges; meet with Chinese provincial government authorities, Austrade and Investment NSW for networking purposes and to explore further expansion into the region; investigate feasibility for future business development and collaboration of other programs; compliance checks and high-level discussion on delivery issues related to Director of Studies was a key action for the trip.

Shanghai (Trip 2 June 2024) - as above however this visit was to maintain and enhance existing relationships with the Chinese partners Shanghai AXGZ Education Training Center Co. Ltd, Austrade and Global Link China. Compliance and delivery discussions also occurred.

Manila (November 2023) - meeting with key education agent partners (IDP Education, AMS Global, AMS Bridge Blue, KOKOS, Global Study Partners, Expert Education, Progress Study, AECC Global); group workshop/training session for education to ensure compliance with ESOS requirements; meet with Australian government agencies (Austrade Manila).

Beijing (May 2024) - attend exhibition/seminar for international students; visit education agents to train new agent counsellors to ensure agent compliance with ESOS requirements.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: TRAVEL EXPENSES

QUESTION 6, PAGE NO 7

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: If you could. I'm interested that you just mentioned that—I'm sure everyone would love a trip to Italy to go and talk about wine, and I appreciate, in all seriousness, that it has a benefit. I'm not being cheeky. For those that are overseas trips that are paid for by partners, but obviously still go through TAFE, can you provide on notice the number of those trips in the last 12 months and who the partners were in that relationship as well?

STEPHEN BRADY: Absolutely, we'll take it on notice.

ANSWER

In FY 2023/24 15 international trips were funded by partners. Partners who funded these trips include: Aalborg Technical Gymnasium, Denmark (ATG), Wine Scholar Guild Italy, WorldSkills Australia, WorldSkills Lyon 2024, WorldSkills International, The International Federation of Pastry Gelato and Chocolate (FIPGC), German government via the RECOTVET program and the Australian Mission to ASEAN (jointly borne), and Wine Scholar Guild, France.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: BUDGET

QUESTION 7, PAGE NO 7

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Would you be able to provide on notice a breakdown in terms of how much was spent on food, alcohol and other costs, if possible? Mr

STEVE WHAN: The expenditure out of my budget was only on food and the catering costs, not on the alcohol.

ANSWER

The catering was for the NSW Parliamentary Friends of TAFE event. The event was run in conjunction with the 'Beyond the Brush' TAFE Art exhibition in Parliament. It was attended by TAFE students, their families and teachers; Members of the Government, the Liberal and National parties, the Greens and cross bench members. I congratulate the three co-chairs of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of TAFE, Maryanne Stuart, Geoff Provest and Tamara Smith in starting such an important group.

No money was spent on alcohol from the Ministerial Budget.

The AHA donated alcohol to the co-convenors of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of TAFE event, Geoff Provest and Maryanne Stuart.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: CAPITAL WORKS

QUESTION 8, PAGE NO 8

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: It's page 4-31 of Budget Paper No. 03. Up the top of the table, under "Major Works", it says "New Works", "Capital Projects", "Various". Over the course of the next four years it's an \$88 million estimated total cost, and this year's allocation is \$22.6 million. I'm curious as to what falls into that "Capital Projects" \$22.6 million for this financial year.

STEPHEN BRADY: The \$88 million consists of a number of elements. One is there are minor works projects, which consists of a range of small projects, really. I'd have to come back to you with a breakdown of what that is.

ANSWER

Page 4-31 of Budget Paper No.3 shows a total allocation of \$88.7 million in FY24/25 for minor works. It also shows \$88.4 million over the FY24/25 to FY27/28 period for new major works which consists of \$65.8 million for the Manufacturing Centres of Excellence project, and \$22.6 million for the Northern Rivers Reconstruction project.

For the current financial year, \$22.6 million is allocated, consisting of \$20.6 million for Manufacturing Centres of Excellence, and \$2.0 million for the Northern Rivers Reconstruction.

The Northern Rivers Construction allocation for this financial year will predominantly be used for design of replacement facilities across the cluster of Northern Rivers campuses including Lismore, Wollongbar, Casino and Ballina.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: CONSULTANTS

QUESTION 9, 10, 12 PAGE NO 12

The CHAIR: The way that I understand e-tendering to work is that there's a tender put out for a specific scope of work. If there was to be an expansion of that scope, then you would consider that as a separate thing. It would be an additional amount that would go under an additional contract. There's no explanation as to why this has just increased.

MARGOT McNEILL: I'll have to come back to the Committee with that information on notice for the specifics about that contract.

.....

The CHAIR: Right. In which case, there should have been another contract process undertaken or a registering on eTendering of an additional amount. There's no explanation in this. There's another one here to a Strawberry Solutions company. This is a 3½-year contract from 1 September 2022 to 24 February 2026. This one has gone from \$460,000 to \$2.2 million. That's over four times the increase in value. Both of these were registered with eTendering on 9 May. How can that be such an increase under the same contract?

MARGOT McNEILL: Again, I'll have to come back with the details on notice. But it will be because we work with those external partners on the material development.

The CHAIR: Minister, does it worry you, the lack of transparency over these sorts of contracts?

Mr STEVE WHAN: In terms of not being able to provide that information, we'll do our best to provide that information for you.

.....

The CHAIR: Are you able to provide me perhaps on notice with the 31 providers that you have creating these products and how much each of their contracts are?

Mr STEVE WHAN: Along the lines of the EY and Strawberry Solutions ones that we had before?

STEPHEN BRADY: Right, okay.

Mr STEVE WHAN: Yes.

ANSWER

TAFE NSW utilises two approved procurement panels for product development and support, the Third Party Learning Products Panel and the Partnership Supply Panel. These panels operate under "consumption-based call-off contracts", which means that work is commissioned as needed from providers on the panel, with the contract value increasing as work is allocated and completed over time. Actual spend is disclosed through quarterly reporting in eTendering.

This approach aligns with the NSW Government procurement policies.

The Third Party Learning Products Panel is made up of 32 suppliers.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

The Partnership Supply Panel is made up of 11 suppliers.

The lists of providers is below and includes the total contract spend as of 30 June 2024 for each supplier.

Supplier	Total Contract Spend as at 30 June 2024 (Incl. GST)
<i>PANEL ARRANGEMENT: 3rd Party Learning Products 32 suppliers</i>	
Cengage	\$6,314,422
Edutemps	\$3,670,266
RTO Materials / Registered Training Organisation	\$2,334,838
RTO Advice Groups (Eduworks)	\$1,856,579
Learning Vault	\$639,939
Elsevier	\$412,438
Snazzy Learning Solutions	\$395,929
McGraw Hill	\$358,583
Digital Learning / Didasko	\$313,644
RTO Works / Tansley Works	\$268,268
eWorks/Vet Assess (Bendigo Kangan)	\$222,741
Learn for Work	\$139,546
Aspire Learning Resources	\$131,320
TAFE QLD	\$111,900
Precision	\$84,713
Appcon	\$66,000
Compliant Learning Resources	\$38,123
eSkilled	\$24,024
Training Resource Solutions	\$20,328
Australian Training Products	\$2,275
Artemis / Allied Beauty Systems	\$0
Catapult	\$0
Deloitte	\$0
Etrain Interactive	\$0
IBM (off shelf)	\$0
National Corporate Training	\$0
Passing Lane	\$0
Real Serious Games	\$0
Skin Deep Learning	\$0
Software Publications	\$0
TAFE SA	\$0

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

The Dav Ange Group	\$0
Supplier	Total Contract Spend as at 30 June 2024 (Incl. GST)
PANEL ARRANGEMENT: Partnership Supply 11 suppliers	
Deloitte	\$18,011,151
Strawberry Solutions	\$2,193,928
Ernst & Young	\$1,887,050
RTO Advice Eduworks	\$1,434,840
Guroo Productions	\$669,240
Elsevier	\$318,523
Aspire Learning Resources	\$0
Career Calling International	\$0
Liberate	\$0
Online Education Service	\$0
eWorks/Vet Assess (Bendigo Kangan)	\$0

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: ADVERTISING**QUESTION 11, PAGE NO 12**

The CHAIR: I'm hearing that some of the micro-courses that have been generally well received—people like the idea of being able to do a micro-course—have some sort of product placement or reference to—

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STEPHEN BRADY: I'm certainly not aware of that, Ms Boyd, so if you could provide us with specifics we'd more than happily look into it.

ANSWER

TAFE NSW and the Institutes of Applied Technology (IAT) utilise industry partners to collaborate in development of learning materials. Courses may feature an interview with a subject matter expert in which they may be identified by name, title and organisation. Video filmed onsite at industry locations may show an industry logo, such as an electric vehicle which may be identified by brand, or a worksite featuring a worker wearing Personal Protective Equipment which may be branded.

Recent products developed by TAFE NSW and the IATs have included industry input from: Microsoft, CPB Contractors, Energy Co, Origin Energy, Volvo, Foton Mobility Australia, Coregas, Haskel, EVSE Coregas, Australian Aluminium Revolutionary Chassis Company (ARCC), Squadron Energy, Ibedrola, Goldwin Australia, Star of the South, Powering Skills Organisation, TILT renewables, SafeWork NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW, Standards Australia, Property Council Academy, Urban Development Institute of Australia, Master Builders Association, and Housing Industry.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: BANKSTOWN

QUESTION 13, PAGE NO 14

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: Are there any documents that you could table to say that TAFE is part of this health precinct?

Mr STEVE WHAN: I believe there have been some publicly available media releases about it and we continue to have discussions with the NSW Health and Health Infrastructure about the proposals.

ANSWER

The media release issued on 19 March 2024 is available at this link:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/new-bankstown-hospital-a-step-closer-as-master-planning-begins>

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: BANKSTOWN

QUESTION 14, PAGE NO 15

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: Minister, is there any precedence for this?

Mr STEVE WHAN: I'd have to ask others

ANSWER

This question should be directed to those Ministers responsible for Infrastructure NSW, who manages the NSW State Infrastructure Pipeline.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: BANKSTOWN**QUESTION 15, PAGE NO 17**

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: In terms of the materials or the agreement or the references that you've made that the \$1.3 billion for the new Bankstown hospital will include the new Bankstown TAFE—could they be made available to the Committee, in terms of the materials, the agreement, the reference?

Mr STEVE WHAN: We will take on notice the public information that's been provided and provide that information and any other information we're able to release at this stage.

ANSWER

The media release issued on 19 March 2024 is available at this link:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/new-bankstown-hospital-a-step-closer-as-master-planning-begins>

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: LEARNER SUPPORT**QUESTION 16, PAGE NO 18**

The CHAIR: In my little three minutes, if we could come back to the multicultural services, I understand that there was a so-called CALD coordinator in certain regions, but not in all regions. Can you give me an update on how many there are and which regions they're currently in?

JULIE TICKLE: I will have to take on notice the number of CALD coordinators we have,
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The CHAIR: Maybe you could come back and tell me where you do and where you don't.

JULIE TICKLE: Sure, yes.

ANSWER

TAFE NSW has nine CALD Coordinators. There are six in Western Sydney region, two in Sydney region and one in TAFE Digital. CALD coordinators in Western Sydney region are also assigned a region/sub region to support, when called upon on a needs basis. CALD Coordinators in Sydney region also provide support to North region, West region and South region when needed.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: BANKSTOWN

QUESTION 17, PAGE NO 19

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: In really simple terms, do you anticipate having more or less square metres of teaching space in the new campus?

STEPHEN BRADY: I'll take that on notice

ANSWER

TAFE NSW is undertaking service delivery planning to ensure that space requirements for the temporary relocation and permanent redevelopment can accommodate TAFE NSW's existing service offerings and future service demand for the Bankstown community. This will inform the joint strategic business case with Health Infrastructure. TAFE NSW anticipates there will be efficiencies in the use of space from improved contemporary design. Confirmation of the space requirements will be known following the completion of the Detailed Business Case.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHANGES

QUESTION 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29 PAGE NO 20, 23, 24, 28

MURAT DIZDAR: The paper quotes about 245 positions. I am saying to the Committee that about 140 of those are vacant. There are about 100 roles that we are looking at. Some of the roles are lift and shift.

The CHAIR: How many?

MURAT DIZDAR: --/-- All up, there are only about 30 roles, or thereabouts—if I've got it wrong I'm happy to come back on notice, because I don't want to get the number wrong—across that entire division where we will be working with individuals around their placement.

.....*Cont. to page 23*

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Mr Dizdar, I'll come back to you with some of the questions that the Chair was asking as well. Could you clarify—I think you said 140 of the roles were vacant at the moment, roughly?

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The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Do you know how many of those have been vacant for a year or more?

MURAT DIZDAR: I don't have that with me. I just know that they're vacant.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Could you take that on notice?

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The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Could you take on notice how many have been vacant for 12 months or more?

MURAT DIZDAR: I can do that

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: How many staff currently work in the HSC Strategy team?

MURAT DIZDAR: I don't have that. It's a large team. I don't have that figure in front of me.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Of the 105 positions that are currently still there and not vacant, what is the proportion of that that is part of the HSC Strategy team?

MURAT DIZDAR: I'm not going to have these figures. Let me take them on notice, if it's okay with you.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: How many will be transferred into that new curriculum division? Is it all of them?

MURAT DIZDAR: No, it's not all of them. Let me get you that figure.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Are they still going to be called the HSC Strategy team within the new curriculum division?

MURAT DIZDAR: I don't want to get that wrong. Let me find that out as well.

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The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: The Best in Class team—are they part of those 105 positions as well?

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MURAT DIZDAR: I don't have it at my fingertips, Ms Mitchell.

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The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: We might come back to this this afternoon. But any figures you've got, potentially, this afternoon in terms of exactly how many there are currently—I think you said the HSC Strategy team was quite large. **MURAT DIZDAR:** Quite a large team, yes.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: But is that 70-odd then? Is that what the rough figure would be?

MURAT DIZDAR: Let me get the numbers, if that's okay.

.....*Cont. to page 28*

The CHAIR: Mr Dizdar, in relation to the 30 ongoing roles being cut potentially from the HSC strategy team, how many are temporary roles? I understand there are the permanent ones, but how many temporary contractors are there in that team?

ANSWER

I am advised by the Minister for Education and Early Learning that:

The NSW Government is committed to the highest quality education in our public schools. Work is underway by the Department of Education to ensure that we simplify the support that we give to schools. As part of this, the department is addressing the duplication - in some cases the triplication - of roles within the Department among non-school based teaching service positions (NSBTs).

Most of the NSBTs are teachers who came from public schools, and they have jobs in our classrooms to return to where their expertise is needed.

Our government is doing everything it can to address the teacher shortage including ensuring more of our expert teachers are back in front of classrooms where they are most needed. We know this is where they can make the most difference to educational outcomes for our students.

Under the proposal, a net 245 NSBT positions out of a total 1,296 would be impacted, of which 142 are currently vacant.

The department says it is likely to conclude these changes by early 2025.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: VR HEADSETS**QUESTION 19, PAGE NO 21**

The CHAIR: I understand that Meta donated 1,000 VR headsets to that team. What has happened to those headsets?

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STEPHEN BRADY: --/-- I couldn't account for where the 4,000 are at the moment. I'd have to take that on notice.

The CHAIR: It was 1,000.

STEPHEN BRADY: Yes, 1,000.

ANSWER

The 1,000 VR headsets are primarily distributed across several campuses, including Bourke, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Kingscliff, Murwillumbah, Nambucca, Newcastle West, Scone, Tomaree, Ultimo, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, Wollongong West, Wauchope, Yamba, and Byron Bay. The Systems Group retain the remaining headsets as stock and allocate them based on demand and requirements.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: STAFFING**QUESTION 26, PAGE NO 25**

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: --/-- Again, there has been some public reporting about I think up to 67 roles within the Education and Skills Reform division no longer being there or being moved. Can you outline what is happening in that space?

CHLOE READ: --/--But I will take on notice by how much because we won't have finalised that structure until tomorrow.

ANSWER

The Department of Education's Education and Skills Reform division announced their divisional changes on 5 September 2024. This followed a period of consultation with staff which occurred between 8 to 22 August 2024. Feedback from staff led to changes made to the future state design.

There are reductions in Public Service Senior Executive positions, government sector employees and non-school based teaching staff positions.

There are 76 government sector employee positions being deleted, of these 27 ongoing roles and 17 temporary roles were filled. The remaining roles were vacant. Twenty-seven new government sector employee roles will be created including 20 ongoing roles and seven temporary roles.

There are five non-school based teaching staff positions being deleted, four of these positions are vacant and were never filled and relate to a program that was discontinued. One of these positions is filled with a temporary employee.

Public Service Senior Executive Positions will reduce by four.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: VET REVIEW

QUESTION 27, PAGE NO 26

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: We look forward to the Government response later in the year. The budget for the review was \$2.2 million. Was that the final cost?

Mr STEVE WHAN: I don't think we have the final cost yet, but I'll ask the department and we'll be able to provide that.

ANSWER

The total operating cost of the VET Review for the 2023/24 financial year was \$782,100 (excluding GST).

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: DISABILITY ADJUSTMENTS**QUESTION 28, PAGE NO 28**

The CHAIR: I'm asking, Minister, is there a capacity for you to advocate to your Federal counterparts in relation to trying to close the gap on disability, given that it is such a problem?

Mr STEVE WHAN: There's certainly capacity to advocate. If there's information which is showing— I haven't seen any figures that you're talking about, but I'd be more than happy to see them and raise the issues.

MURAT DIZDAR: --/-- Chair, if you do have particular instances from particular universities, I think they would really benefit from being made aware.

ANSWER

The NSW Government frequently advocates to the Australian Government on issues relating to higher education. This advocacy takes place through a range of avenues, including submissions to formal review processes, Ministerial correspondence, and through consultative groups such as the Education Ministers Meeting.

Issues related to equity, access, and participation in higher education, including for students with disability, are a priority for NSW in advocacy related to higher education. For example, the NSW Government submission to the Australian Universities Accord Discussion Paper highlighted the additional and compounding challenges experienced by students from underrepresented cohorts, including students with disability.

The submission called for funding certainty for providers to improve access and support delivery of holistic wrap-around services. It also called for more transparency around how universities use funding loadings to support underrepresented students.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: CAPITAL WORKS

QUESTION 30, 31 PAGE NO 32

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Do you have the breakdown of what's State and what's Federal?

Mr STEVE WHAN: No, not that we can—

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: On notice maybe?

Mr STEVE WHAN: We'll take that on notice.

.....

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Do you have a breakdown of how much for Western Sydney, for Hunter and for Illawarra of that 20—

Mr STEVE WHAN: How much of the capital?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Yes.

Mr STEVE WHAN: We'll take that on notice.

ANSWER

The media release issued on 5 September 2024 is available at this link:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/tafe-manufacturing-centre-of-excellence-announced-for-western-sydney>

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

QUESTION 32, PAGE NO 33

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: In terms of student numbers when the centres are operating, do we know anything about that?

Mr STEVE WHAN: My memory is that we're aiming for 1,000 a year, but we'll come back to you and confirm that.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: How many, sorry?

Mr STEVE WHAN: A thousand.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Across all three?

Mr STEVE WHAN: Yes.

STEPHEN BRADY: I believe that's right. Can we come back?

ANSWER

1,000 students annually in Microcredentials and Higher Apprenticeships across all three locations, plus regional delivery via Mobile Training Units starting FY25/26.

Manufacturing Centres of Excellence Microskill (digital short course) enrolments will boost total enrolments to 10,000, including Higher Apprenticeships and Microcredentials, over the four-year New Policy Proposal (NPP).

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

QUESTION 33, PAGE NO 33

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: In all three at the same time, or is there a staged delivery approach?

STEPHEN BRADY: Let me come back to you on that as well. I

ANSWER

I am advised that Microcredential and Microskill education will be available at all three locations by Calendar Year 2025. Higher Apprenticeship delivery begins in Illawarra in Calendar Year 2025, expanding to all locations by Calendar Year 2026. Existing facilities will be used until concurrent Centre of Excellence (CoE) refurbishments across the three CoE sites are complete.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

QUESTION 34, PAGE NO 34-35

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: My question—and I'll get to it—was around how that's a \$250 million allocation for 1,300. You've got \$94-odd million for your 1,000. Can you explain how it is different as best you can?

--//--

CHLOE READ: We might need to take that on notice. I don't have enough detail on the local government quantity in comparison.

ANSWER

The Office of Local Government is yet to issue guidelines for the operation of the program. The Minister for Local Government has responsibility for the 1300 apprentice and trainees for local government.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

QUESTION 35, PAGE NO 35

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: That was going to be my next question. In terms of the TAFE component of those roles, how does that work for funding? Will some of that \$250 million come back for those students? How does that work in practice?

CHLOE READ: I think we will need to take the specifics on notice for the Office of Local Government. --/--We might just come back on notice on the specifics of how things will flow between us.

ANSWER

The Office of Local Government is yet to issue guidelines for the operation of the program. The Department of Education is liaising with the Office of Local Government to support them with the delivery of this commitment. Further questions on this commitment should be referred to the Minister for Local Government as responsibility for the 1,300 apprentices and trainees for local government lies within his portfolio responsibilities.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

QUESTION 36, PAGE NO 35

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I appreciate what you've just said about taking it all on notice and that a lot of it goes to local government, but is there any time frame for when they hope to have those 1,300 apprentices? Is it within this term of government or over the next four years? Do you know how long the funding is meant to last and the time frame to get to 1,300?

Mr STEVE WHAN: We'll probably direct that question to Ron Hoenig.

ANSWER

This question should be referred to the Minister for Local Government who has responsibility for the employment of an additional 1,300 apprentices and trainees by local government.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: TAFE NSW QUEANBEYAN

QUESTION 37, PAGE NO 35

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I'm after how many are enrolled and also the face-to-face courses and any changes in the last 12 months, at Queanbeyan specifically.

Mr STEVE WHAN: I don't believe there have been any changes in the last 12 months.

STEPHEN BRADY: No.

Mr STEVE WHAN: We'll take on notice the actual numbers enrolled.

ANSWER

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Enrolment figures are not provided by location. TAFE NSW provides enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which is publicly available on the TAFE NSW website. Enrolment figures by location may not accurately reflect actual classes by location due to practices across multiple delivery channels, such as fully online learners as well as various campus based options.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: TAFE NSW QUEANBEYAN

QUESTION 38, PAGE NO 35

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: And what face-to-face courses are currently on offer as well at that campus?

STEPHEN BRADY: We'll take that on notice.

ANSWER

Information regarding course offerings and availability is publicly available on the TAFE NSW website.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: QUANTUM GROUP

QUESTION 39, PAGE NO 36

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Yes, it was \$15.4 million in 2019. My understanding is they got a 12-month extension, but they're not sure of ongoing funding. Who would that fall under?

--//--

CHLOE READ: I don't think it's us. I think it might be the Chief Scientist. I'm happy to take it on notice.

ANSWER

Questions regarding the Sydney Quantum Academy should be referred to the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer which is responsible for the government funding to the Sydney Quantum Academy.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: BANKSTOWN

QUESTION 40, PAGE NO 52

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: The time frame on the joint business case is?

STEPHEN BRADY: I'd have to come back to you on the specifics of that if I can

ANSWER

Health Infrastructure NSW is currently leading the Strategic Business Case which is expected to be completed by December 2024/January 2025. A final business case will follow.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: ANIMAL CARE COURSES

QUESTION 41, PAGE NO 60

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: In terms of the offering of animal care courses more broadly across the State—and I'm happy if you need to take this on notice—how many campuses offer those courses currently?

STEPHEN BRADY: I think we'll have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

Animal studies courses were delivered across 40 TAFE NSW locations in Calendar Year 2023.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: ANIMAL CARE COURSES

QUESTION 42, PAGE NO 60

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: That's all right. Could you maybe provide a list of where they're offered as well?

STEPHEN BRADY: Happy to

ANSWER

See the below table of animal studies courses delivered by Campus for Calendar Year 2023.

Campus	Current Course Name
Armidale	Certificate II in Animal Care
Bankstown	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Bathurst	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Statement of Attainment in Basic Introduction into Dog Grooming
Belmont	Certificate II in Animal Care
Coffs Harbour Education	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Coonamble	Certificate II in Animal Care
Cowra	Certificate II in Animal Care
Dubbo	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Statement of Attainment in Basic Introduction into Dog Grooming
Forbes	Certificate II in Animal Care
	TAFE Statement in Basic Native Animal Rescue and Critical Care
Glendale	Certificate II in Animal Care
Gosford	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Goulburn	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	Certificate III in Horse Care
Grafton	Certificate II in Animal Care

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

Griffith	Certificate II in Animal Care
Inverell	Certificate II in Animal Care
Kingscliff	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Kurri Kurri	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Lithgow	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
Maitland	Certificate II in Animal Care
Moruya	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
Moss Vale	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Horse Breeding
	Certificate III in Horse Care
Mudgee	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Statement of Attainment in Basic Introduction into Dog Grooming
Muswellbrook	Certificate II in Animal Care
Narrabri	Certificate II in Animal Care
National Environmental Centre	Certificate II in Animal Care
Newcastle	Certificate II in Animal Care
Nowra	Certificate II in Animal Care
Orange	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	Statement of Attainment in Implant Microchip in Cats and Dogs
Virtual Campus	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Primary Industries Centre	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Richmond	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	Certificate IV in Farriery
Scone	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	Certificate III in Horse Breeding
	Statement of Attainment in Foaling Night Watch
	Certificate IV in Farriery
Tamworth	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Taree	Certificate II in Animal Care

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	Certificate III in Horse Care
Ultimo	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	TAFE Statement in Dangerous Dog Handling and Assessment Workshop
Wauchope	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Wellington	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
Wollongbar	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
Wyong	Certificate II in Animal Care
Yallah	Certificate II in Animal Care
	Certificate III in Animal Care Services
	Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care
	Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
	Certificate III in Horse Care

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: ANIMAL CARE COURSES

QUESTION 43, PAGE NO 60-61

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Could you also provide on notice how many students you currently have, or the capacity of how many?

STEPHEN BRADY: I'll take it on notice.

ANSWER

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. In-year enrolment figures are not provided as they are subject to change. TAFE NSW provides enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which is publicly available on the TAFE NSW website.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: LEARNER SUPPORT

QUESTION 44, PAGE NO 62-63

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: In terms of student support services, what portion of the budget is allocated to enhanced student support services for TAFE students such as mental health, career counselling and academic support?

STEPHEN BRADY: --/-- There is a whole range of supports that go towards those disability teacher consultants. I think I would have to come back on notice in terms of budget breakdowns for the support services

ANSWER

TAFE NSW uses Community Services Obligation (CSO) funding and other funding streams to provide a broad range of services to learners facing barriers to education and employment, including:

- counselling and career development services
- accessibility and disability support
- on-campus and online library resources
- access to culturally safe learning spaces
- language, literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy support.

CSO funding is provided to TAFE NSW as part of its annual budget allocation, in recognition of its unique legislated obligation to enable disadvantaged students to participate in vocational education and training.

TAFE NSW received CSO funding of \$158 million, representing approximately 8% of TAFE NSW total revenue. Other funding streams are unable to be directly isolated against expenditure on student support services

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: LEARNER SUPPORT**QUESTION 45, PAGE NO 68**

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: But if you live in Gunnedah and you go to Tamworth to do your course, however many days a month or however it works, is there a limit to what each student can get? I'm happy if you need to provide it on notice; I'm just curious, in real terms, what an average student can get under that program.

MATHEW PEARSON: We might take it on notice, just around the specifics.

ANSWER

Apprentices and new entrant trainees who travel more than 120 km round trip to attend single day or block release training, may be able to apply for financial assistance from the Vocational Training Assistance Scheme (VTAS).

VTAS payments include:

- a travel allowance of 33 cents per km (home address to college),
- an accommodation allowance of \$56 per night (block release training only).

VTAS payments are uncapped, however a student must meet the eligibility requirements to receive the travel and/or accommodation allowance. The amount an apprentice or new entrant trainee receives through VTAS differs depending on the distance they travel and their need for accommodation.

Apprentices and new entrant trainees may be eligible to claim the accommodation allowance for the night before and/or after their block training, providing they can outline the reason why this accommodation is necessary.

Further information about the scheme and how to apply is available on the Service NSW website: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-the-vtas-travel-and-accommodation-allowance>.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: FEE-FREE COURSES

QUESTION 46, PAGE NO 70

The Hon. RACHEL MERTON: Can you provide a demographic breakdown of the students who have enrolled in fee-free TAFE places so far?

CHLOE READ: Perhaps we could. Mr Brady, do you have one for your enrolments?

STEPHEN BRADY: I think we'll have to take it on notice.

ANSWER

The breakdowns provided in the tables below are for enrolments up to 30 June 2024.

Demographics NSW Fee Free -Tranche 1 (Calendar Year 2023)	Total
Priority Cohort	
First Nation Australians	14,898
Young person (24 and under)	50,825
Job seeker (includes unemployed, income support recipients, and those who are at risk of unemployment)	63,614
People with disability	9,687
Visa holders (humanitarian visas)	1,925
Female	119,054
Male	63,510
Non-binary / other / unspecified	512
Major city	111,850
Inner and outer regional	69,121
Remote and very remote	2,042
Language other than English spoken at home	49,120

Demographics NSW Fee Free -Tranche 2 (Calendar Year 2024)	Total
Priority Cohort	
First Nation Australians	2,073
Young person (24 and under)	14,377
Job seeker (includes unemployed, income support recipients, and those who are at risk of unemployment)	19,031
People with disability	752
Visa holders (humanitarian visas)	464
Female	33,145
Male	16,111
Non-binary / other / unspecified	116
Major city	29,255
Inner and outer regional	19,462
Remote and very remote	655
Language other than English spoken at home	14,157

Source: NSW Department of Education, Integrated Vocational Education and Training System (extracted on: 26 July 2024)

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024

Transcript Questions

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: LEARNER SUPPORT

QUESTION 47, PAGE NO 71

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I just want to go back very quickly—I know you took it on notice, Mr Pearson—to the support that's available for students with accommodation and travel costs. Could you also, either now or on notice, provide information as to whether it's available for students of cross-border communities—if you live in one area but come across, or vice versa? I don't know how that works.

MATHEW PEARSON: I would be happy to take it on notice

ANSWER

Apprentices and new entrant trainees in cross-border communities may be eligible for financial assistance from the Vocational Training Assistance Scheme (VTAS).

To be eligible for VTAS payments a student must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered in NSW as an apprentice or new entrant trainee under the *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act, 2001*,
- their place of employment is in NSW,
- have to travel more than 120kms (round trip) for off-the-job training.

Apprentices and new entrant trainees of cross-border communities travelling from one area to another must meet the above eligibility criteria to access VTAS payments. Most notably, they must travel more than 120kms (round trip) for off-the-job training. Students travelling between the towns of Albury and Wodonga would not meet this requirement and would therefore be ineligible for VTAS payments. Further information about the scheme is available on the Service NSW website:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-the-vtas-travel-and-accommodation-allowance>.

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 4 September 2024**Transcript Questions**

Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

TITLE: ENROLMENTS

QUESTION 48, PAGE NO 71

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I'm also particularly interested in regional areas as well. What are you seeing with student numbers there in terms of trends?

STEPHEN BRADY: I don't actually have that data with me.

JANET SCHORER: No, I don't. We can provide what we can on notice.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: If you can provide on notice a bit of a breakdown of the students and where they are based.

JANET SCHORER: Yes, of course.

ANSWER

In Calendar Year 2023, 31% of total TAFE NSW enrolments (125,000 of 404,000) were by students from regional / remote areas. This is a slight increase from the average for the last five years of 30% of total enrolments coming from these areas.

The NSW statistical areas that included Central West, Mid North Coast, New England and North West, Richmond - Tweed, Coffs Harbour - Grafton, Hunter Valley (excl. Newcastle), Riverina, Far West and Orana and Capital region (includes Queanbeyan, Snowy Mountains, Goulburn, Yass etc) accounted for the majority of the regional / remote enrolments.