

Good afternoon,

Once again thank you for the opportunity to participate in this public hearing.

In response to the two issues that I took on notice I provide the following:

1. In relation to issues with ABSTUDY I have attached a recent letter from one of our Colleges which provides some recent issues that have occurred, however this is indicative of regular issues that occur; and
2. In relation to the ability to attract tradespeople to teaching positions I provide the following:

Two teachers who are experienced carpenters, and who took time out to study a Masters of Teaching, which provided them with eligibility to be a Teacher in Queensland. To compete with the salaries that they were being offered in the construction industry in Cairns we had to commence the Teachers as a Level P8 teacher (almost the top of the scale) which currently has a salary of \$117,565, this was still well below the wages they were being offered in the construction industry.

Thank you.

**BILL DIXON | Executive Director**  
**Catholic Education Services – Diocese of Cairns**