

Question on notice no. 59

Portfolio question number: SQ23-001240

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

Education and Employment Committee, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio

Senator Karen Grogan: asked the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations on 26 October 2023—

Senator GROGAN: That's great. I'm interested in the cohort that are signing up for the fee-free TAFE, particularly what the breakdown is in terms of students from more disadvantaged backgrounds and students with disabilities. Very specifically I'd be keen to understand the First Nations students that have signed up under fee-free TAFE.

Ms Campbell: We do have enrolment by priority groups. This is data to 30 June. For First Nations Australians, we had 6,845 enrolments. For jobseekers, we had 50,849. For people with disability, we had 15,269. For visa holders, we had 2,133. For people 24 years and under, we had 75,065 students. For unpaid carers, we had six. For women facing economic insecurity, we had 17. For women undertaking non-traditional fields, we had 65.

Senator GROGAN: I wonder if, on notice-I'm feeling the glare of the chair here!-you could provide us with a table of some of those breakdowns and, potentially, some of those enrolment numbers by state? That would be really helpful.

Answer —

Please see PDF attachment.

Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. SQ23-001240

Senator Karen Grogan on 26 October 2023, Proof Hansard page 15

Fee-free Tafe cohort breakdown

Question

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Ms Campbell: We do have enrolment by priority groups. This is data to 30 June. For First Nations Australians, we had 6,845 enrolments. For jobseekers, we had 50,849. For people with disability, we had 15,269. For visa holders, we had 2,133. For people 24 years and under, we had 75,065 students. For unpaid carers, we had six. For women facing economic insecurity, we had 17. For women undertaking non-traditional fields, we had 65.

Senator GROGAN: I wonder if, on notice—I'm feeling the glare of the chair here!—you could provide us with a table of some of those breakdowns and, potentially, some of those enrolment numbers by state? That would be really helpful.

Answer

The relevant state breakdown of participation of priority groups by state for Fee-Free TAFE as at 30 June 2023 is in the table below:

Fee-Free TAFE enrolments by Priority Groups by state and territory as at 30 June 2023

Priority Group#	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total Enrolments*
Young person (24 and under)	441	28,670	210	22,470	2,965	765	12,701	6,843	75,065
Job seeker	0	33,963	265	5,660	2,764	673	6,018	1,506	50,849
People with disability	307	5,017	110	3,521	319	392	3,602	2,001	15,269
First Nation Australians	57	1,716	442	2,605	124	197	675	1,029	6,845
Visa holders	0	0	0	0	745	0	0	1,388	2,133
Women undertaking study in non-traditional fields	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	67
Women facing economic insecurity	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
Unpaid carers	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total Enrolments*	805	69,366	1,117	34,256	6,917	2,027	22,996	12,767	150,251

Priority Group reporting is reliant upon self-identification of information by enrolling students and collection of this information by jurisdictions.

*Total Fee-Free TAFE enrolments are greater than the sum of Priority Groups or Language other than English spoken at Home, as some Fee-Free TAFE enrolments are not from priority groups. In addition, some individuals enrolling in Fee-Free TAFE courses belong to more than one priority group.