

Question on notice no. 371

Portfolio question number: SQ24-002074

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

Education and Employment Committee, Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio

Senator Jacqui Lambie: asked the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations on 15 November 2024—

The Commonwealth entered into an agreement with the states and territories to fund 500,000 Fee-Free TAFE and vocational education and training (VET) places across Australia over 2023 to 2026.

1. What is the total amount of funding that has been allocated to this program since its inception?
2. How much of the Commonwealth funding has been expended since the program commenced (annualised) ?
3. Can the Department advise:
 - a. the total number of fee-free places have been taken up each year since the program was announced?
 - b. which category or area of the ten stated national priorities those fee-free places fall under?

Answer —

Please see PDF attachment.

Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. SQ24-002074

Senator Jacqui Lambie provided in writing.

Agreement with state and territories to fund 500,000 Fee-Free TAFE

Question

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Answer

1. Through the Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement, the Commonwealth Government, in partnership with state and territory governments is delivering over \$1.5 billion in funding for 500,000 Fee-Free TAFE and vocational education and training (VET) places across Australia over 2023 to 2026 in partnership with states and territories. This includes Commonwealth investment of:
 - \$493.3 million for 180,000 Fee-Free TAFE places in 2023 (Tranche 1)
 - \$414.4 million for 300,000 Fee-Free TAFE places over 2024-2026 (Tranche 2)
 - \$86.4 million for 20,000 Fee-Free TAFE construction places over 2025-2026 (Fee-Free Construction).

The Commonwealth is contributing almost \$1 billion of the overall \$1.5 billion investment to deliver Fee-Free TAFE with states and territories.

2. \$658.9 million of Commonwealth finding has been expended as at 20 June 2024
 - a) 508,889 Fee-Free TAFE enrolments as at 30 June 2024.
 - b) The total number of Fee-Free TAFE enrolments in the ten national priority sectors as at 30 June 2024 are:

Sector	Total
Agriculture	20,322
Care	131,352
Construction	34,996
Defence	879

Early Childhood Education and Care	35,585
Hospitality and Tourism	20,577
Manufacturing	7,235
Sovereign Capability	4,086
Technology and Digital	48,907
VET Workforce	9,628