

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No. EW0403_12

Senator Nash asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 38.

Question

TAFEs Providing Pathway to University Courses

Senator NASH: That would be good. Thank you very much. There is just one final thing and, again, I am happy for this to go on notice. I am interested in the TAFEs that are providing pathways to university courses. Could you perhaps just do a brief for me on which of those TAFEs are, across the country, providing that pathway to university, because I think this is a really interesting—

Ms Paul: There is more and more of that and it is exactly what we want.

Senator NASH: It is very interesting and, particularly in regional areas, a very useful shift.

Ms Paul: Yes, it is.

Senator NASH: The data on that would be much appreciated.

Ms Paul: I have not seen figures on this for a while, but the other thing we were noticing a couple of years ago was that there is an increasing of incidence of people who go to university and then do a TAFE qualification or a VET qualification because they want to specialise in something. I remember meeting somebody who had done engineering and then he had gone to TAFE to do some particular vocational part of that, which is great too. That is terrific.

Senator Chris Evans: They have done a degree in engineering and then they have done a one-year diploma at a TAFE on more practical aspects which they thought would make them more employable, in addition to the university degree. Quite a number of TAFEs are running those things now for large sectors of university graduates. It is interesting.

Senator NASH: Yes. If you have any figures on that and, again, the TAFEs that are providing that sort of postgrad qualification—

Answer

Learning pathways

In education and training, an individual can transition within educational sectors for example, within the vocational education and training (VET) sector or higher education sector, and/or transition between educational sectors for example, move from the VET sector to the higher education sector or from the higher education sector to the VET sector. These are considered learning pathways. The progression through learning pathways arises from individual choice but can be influenced by many factors including policies set by education providers, employers and governments.

The latest information available from the NCVET suggests that in 2009 approximately 6.8% of TAFE graduates went on to University while around 7.1% of VET students had a bachelor degree or higher.

A sample of institutions which provide learning pathway arrangements for some states/territories have been provided below.

In Victoria

- Four universities are dual-sector institutions, having both a TAFE division and a university. Dual-sector institutions offer both higher education and vocational education and training (VET) courses to study. This allows more flexible pathways into higher education through the transfer of credits between VET and higher education courses. These universities are RMIT University, Swinburne University, University of Ballarat and Victoria University. Courses offered by these TAFE divisions have strong articulation arrangements with the corresponding university.
- At Swinburne University, 22% of bachelor degree admissions were based on VET qualifications. This institution has a TAFE division and coordinates its VET and higher education programs thus, facilitating pathways from the VET to the higher education sector.

In Western Australia

- TAFEWA offers over 250 certificate, diploma and advanced diploma courses which can provide advanced entry into university degree courses and grant credits of up to 18 months of a degree.

In New South Wales

- TAFE NSW *Diploma-to-Degree* university pathway programs allow students to enter a bachelor degree program with guaranteed credit at:
 - Australian Catholic University (ACU)
 - University of Western Sydney (UWS)
 - Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP)
 - Southern Cross University (SCU)

Queensland

- Queensland TAFE has set up articulation and credit transfer arrangements with:
 - Australian Catholic University
 - Bond University
 - CQUniversity Australia
 - Griffith University
 - James Cook University
 - Queensland University of Technology
 - Southern Cross University
 - The University of Queensland
 - University of New England
 - University of Southern Queensland
 - University of the Sunshine Coast

It also states that many university graduates also undertake further studies at TAFE Queensland.

Tasmania

- The University of Tasmania has developed pathways to enable student admissions with credit transfer based on studies completed at the Tasmanian Polytechnic, Tasmanian Skills Institute, a TAFE, or a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

ACT

- Canberra Institute of Technology has over 150 credit transfer arrangements in place covering diplomas and advanced diplomas in a variety of discipline areas with the University of Canberra.