

**Inquiry into Arts and Music Education and Training in NSW Hearing – 23
August 2024**

Transcript Questions

TITLE: Course fees

QUESTION 1a, PAGE NO 48

The CHAIR: We had some feedback, particularly from the National Art School, from students and teachers there, that the courses that aren't supported by Smart and Skilled have become prohibitively expensive and a lot of them are feeder courses, like in visual arts. I was wondering if you could give us an indication of what courses are affordable and what courses aren't being subsidised and so, therefore, have become \$10,000 courses.

JANET SCHORER: It's a great question and we're very mindful about the affordability, particularly as the fee-free Smart and Skilled arrangements change. In general terms for us at TAFE NSW, obviously fee-free and other subsidies that are provided by governments, State and Federal, enable us to provide that training at no or low fee. Once that subsidy is not available, we're in a position where we need to charge fees. There is obviously help to be able to accrue a loan and pay that off to assist with the affordability, but it is the case that we do have a pricing schedule and a need to charge for those particular courses once they are no longer subsidised in either form by the Government. I don't know if Dr Marcellino wants to add anything, because what has been available on fee-free lists, or what has been available through Smart and Skilled, has changed over time. That would be a great question to ask the Department of Education as well later on because they set the framework for that. We can give a little bit more detail about what might have changed and how we're approaching that, certainly acknowledging that we want learners to be able to access education and not have cost as an inhibitor. Do you want to add anything, Dr Marcellino?

RAFFAELE MARCELLINO: Only to give you, say, an example in terms of ceramics, which is a full-fee course and the demand for ceramics is strong. In fact, we have waiting lists. It varies in different art forms. In that case, while it's full fee, the interest in the community is such that we have waiting lists for that course.

Dr JOE McGIRR: What are the fees if they're not subsidised, and then what percentage of your students are fee free and not in the creative industries?

RAFFAELE MARCELLINO: I would have to take that question on notice, and we can come back to you with that balance. It is a combination and because we're a higher education provider as well as a VET provider in TAFE, we have quite a varied schedule of fees where some courses have access to Smart and Skilled and some students can access FEE-HELP to move into higher education qualifications.

ANSWER

In FY24, approximately 51 per cent of enrolments at TAFE NSW were in fee free training where students did not pay any fee. Of these enrolments, a very small percentage (one per cent) were in the creative industries.

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QUESTION 1b, PAGE NO 48

The CHAIR: Can you provide a list of what's in and what is out—what it costs to do each of the courses in the creative arts?

JANET SCHORER: We can provide that from our perspective. I suggest there is a component of that that is also the Department of Education through Smart and Skilled and they set the courses and the price for that side. We can certainly provide fees for the courses you are interested in, on notice.

ANSWER

For 2024, TAFE NSW offered four courses under the fee free initiative:

- Certificate III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
- Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services
- Certificate III in Screen and Media
- Certificate II in Engineering (Jewellery stream).

The qualifications on the NSW Skills List that require learners to pay, noting the fee is set by the NSW Department of Education, are:

Certificate III in Jewellery Manufacture
Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology
Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
Certificate II in Printing and Graphic Arts
Certificate II in Music
Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts
Certificate III in Millinery
Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Technology
Certificate III in Visual Arts
Certificate III in Printing
Certificate III in Design Fundamentals
Certificate III in Music
Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts
Certificate III in Community Dance, Theatre and Events
Certificate IV in Photography and Digital Imaging
Certificate IV in Design
Certificate IV in Music
Certificate IV in Arts and Cultural Administration
Certificate IV in Screen and Media
Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts
Certificate IV in Interior Decoration
Certificate IV in Live Production and Technical Services
Certificate IV in Furniture Design and Manufacturing
Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services

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Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Merchandising
Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles
Diploma of Screen and Media
Diploma of Music
Advanced Diploma of Music
Diploma of Graphic Design
Advanced Diploma of Screen and Media
Diploma of Interior Design

The qualifications not on the NSW Skills List that require a commercial fee to be paid are:

Qualification	Commercial fee
Advanced Diploma of Apparel, Fashion and Textiles	\$12,830
Advanced Diploma of Applied Fashion Design and Merchandising	\$11,380
Advanced Diploma of Graphic Design	\$11,380
Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts	\$10,100
Certificate IV in Interior Decoration	\$12,130
Diploma of Ceramics	\$13,130
Diploma of Interior Design	\$21,130
Diploma of Photography and Digital Imaging	\$11,380
Diploma of Visual Arts	\$11,380

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QUESTION 2, PAGE 49

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: Thank you very much for coming along today. I'm inquiring about—and I'm keen to get your thoughts—how many TAFEs across New South Wales have the facilities to deliver event production, music production, technical lighting, and sound mixing, engineering and so on? How many TAFEs have that capability? How many are in use and what are the student numbers? That will then maybe give us an indication of who is coming through the system, if possible.

JANET SCHORER: Certainly the detail of that I'm very happy to provide on notice. That is in the memory bank for today. Some of those courses, or some of those particular subject areas, might not need a bespoke classroom or a set of equipment to do that. That makes it much easier to deliver in a broader range of locations than where you need specialist infrastructure. We can provide information about where we have particular infrastructure. Dr Marcellino might be able to speak to that in more detail. What we try to work to around delivery is best utilising the infrastructure where we've got it, particularly in regional locations where we understand we can't do everything everywhere. We can't have a full set of everything we need that we currently deliver the equipment to do everything everywhere, but how do we get best use out of that without students having to travel long distances to be able to access that. Did you want to add anything to that?

ANSWER

In FY24, for courses that sit within the Music, Sound and Live Production skills areas, there were 2246 TAFE NSW learners enrolled across 16 campuses in Music, Sound and Live Productions skills areas, with around 200 of those enrolled in High School.