

**INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**  
**Supplementary questions on notice – hearing on 22 September 2015**  
**Questions for the Ms Pam Christie, Managing Director, TAFE NSW**

**Question:**

1. Please provide a breakdown of TAFE NSW revenues by each of the following sources (in the years in which they are applicable) for each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year):
  - a. Operational base funding (OBF)
  - b. Community services obligations (CSO) payments
  - c. Payments under Smart and Skilled
  - d. Payments for provision of contract services
  - e. Revenue received in fees from students
    - i. For commercial courses
    - ii. From delivery of Smart and Skilled entitlements
    - iii. From other subsidised courses
    - iv. From courses that are not subsidised.

**Answer:**

Please refer to past and current budget papers for this information. Detail is also available in the TAFE NSW Financial Statements available in previous Annual Reports at the following location <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>

Operational Base Funding and Community Service Obligation Funding are included as part of TAFE NSW's recurrent cluster grant.

**Question:**

2. Please provide the revenue for each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year) from each of the following:
  - a. Certificate 1 courses
  - b. Certificate II courses
  - c. Certificate III courses
  - d. Certificate IV courses
  - e. Diploma courses
  - f. Advanced Diploma courses
  - g. Other (please specify categories).

**Answer:**

TAFE NSW does not itemise revenue by these categories. Detail of revenue are contained within past and current Budget Papers and TAFE NSW financial Statements, available in previous Annual Reports at the following location <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>

**Question:**

3. Please provide the number of face-to-face hours delivered for each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year) from each of the following:
  - a. Certificate 1 courses
  - b. Certificate II courses
  - c. Certificate III courses
  - d. Certificate IV courses
  - e. Diploma courses
  - f. Advanced Diploma courses
  - g. Other (please specify categories).

**Answer:**

TAFE course delivery is customised to suit student, industry and site requirements. Data reports of this nature are not routine parts of operational reporting. Given the number of delivery sites within TAFE NSW and the number of courses delivered, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

**Question:**

4. Please provide the number of full time equivalent student enrolments and the body count enrolments in each of the last five years (including partial results for the current year)for each of the following:
  - a. Certificate 1 courses
  - b. Certificate II courses
  - c. Certificate III courses
  - d. Certificate IV courses
  - e. Diploma courses
  - f. Advanced Diploma courses
  - g. Other (please specify categories).

**Answer:**

These data are available from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) VET Provider Collection. They can be accessed via the VOCSTATS database: [www.ncver.edu.au/resources/vocstats.html](http://www.ncver.edu.au/resources/vocstats.html)  
Alternatively, a report can be requested directly from NCVER at the following email: [vet\\_req@ncver.edu.au](mailto:vet_req@ncver.edu.au)

Please note that in 2014, the derivation of course enrolments was changed from a distinct count of client, course and provider location (in combination) to a distinct count of client, course and RTO (in combination). Data has been backdated to 2003.

**Question:**

5. Please provide a list of all courses where face-to-face delivery hours per student- qualification in 2014 were less than 85% of what it was four years ago:
  - a. For each such course, please provide the hours in 2014, the hours 4 years ago and the explanation as to the reduction.

**Answer:**

TAFE course delivery is customised to suit student, industry and site requirements. Given the number of delivery sites within TAFE NSW and the number of courses delivered, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources. Data reports of this nature are not routine parts of operational reporting.

**Question:**

6. Please provide a list of all courses where face-to-face delivery hours per student- qualification in 2015 is anticipated to be less than 85% of what it was four years ago:
  - a. For each such course, please provide the hours in 2014, the hours 4 years ago and the explanation as to the reduction.

**Answer:**

Given the number of delivery sites within TAFE NSW and the number of courses delivered, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

**Question:**

7. Please describe the protocols used to ensure that all students who are enrolled in courses with significant on-line instruction have the appropriate skills and base knowledge to successfully study on line.

**Answer:**

TAFE NSW Institutes have processes in place to ensure learners have the appropriate skills and knowledge required to enrol in courses. TAFE NSW complies with ASQA requirements.

**Question:**

8. Please provide for each of the last five years (including partial or excepted results for 2015) the number of hours of each of the following provided by the TAFE institutes:
  - a. Note takers for the hearing impaired
  - b. Sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired.

**Answer:**

TAFE course delivery is customised to suit student, industry and site requirements. Data reports of this nature are not routine parts of operational reporting. Given the number of delivery sites within TAFE NSW and the number of courses delivered, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources.

TAFE NSW employs specialist disability consultants who offer tutorial support in and out of class for students with disabilities, and has assistive staff, and learning devices and software to help students with special needs.

This includes staff who can act as note takers and software and hardware such speech to text software, voice recognition and adapted workstations.

Innovative learning support methods ensure that students with a disability are provided with strategies and tools that they can continue to use in the workplace.

**Question:**

9. For each of the last five years (including partial results for 2015) please provide the number of hours of employment of Part Time Casual Teachers:
- a. Please break this down by faculty if possible.

**Answer:**

Given the number of delivery sites within TAFE NSW and the number of courses delivered, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources. TAFE NSW does not routinely collect operational reports of this nature.

**Question:**

10. What fraction of students chooses delivery modes other than face to face?
- a. Please provide a breakdown between the number that choose online and how many are workplace
  - b. What percentage of these students had the option of taking classroom delivery (i.e. it was offered in the course of study they were undertaking)?

**Answer:**

In response to both student and employer demand, and technological changes, TAFE is increasingly providing flexible and blended learning options.

In 2014, classroom delivery represented 54 per cent of overall delivery time. Online/blended delivery represented 28 per cent of overall delivery hours and employment based delivery represented 18 per cent.

From 2004 to 2013 pure classroom-based delivery dropped by 33 per cent while over the same period, online delivery increased by 24 per cent and workplace delivery increased by 17 per cent.

TAFE NSW is not investing solely in online delivery. TAFE NSW is consolidating and investing in modern, industry-standard facilities, establishing specialist industry centres of excellence and developing online learning portals, all of which will give students access to the latest equipment and technology.

**Question:**

11. For each of the last five years (including partial results for 2015) please provide TAFE NSW's revenue from *VET FEE-HELP* broken down by qualification level.

**Answer:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth. Data is published on the Department of Education and Training website by State and Territory, and by individual provider, including TAFE NSW. See <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>. TAFE NSW revenue for VET FEE-HELP is not identified by qualification level.

**Question:**

12. Smart and Skilled has created substantial uncertainty in the future revenues of TAFE institutes. Please describe how TAFE manages that uncertainty.

**Answer:**

As part of their Smart and Skilled contracts, TAFE NSW Institutes receive a financial allocation each year, which enables Institutes to plan for the year.

**Question:**

13. Has there been any analysis of, or studies prepared into, changes to the structure of TAFE NSW involving reducing the number of institutes?

- a. If so, please provide details?
- b. If not, what structural studies have been prepared in the last two years? Please provide details.

**Answer:**

TAFE NSW routinely reviews how it delivers vocational education and training to ensure that it meets the expectations of students, employers and the community.

**Question:**

14. What percentage of TAFE's anticipated revenues for the 2015 calendar are each of the following:

- a. Operational base funding (OBF)
- b. Community services obligations (CSO) payments
- c. Payments under smart and skilled
- d. Payments for provision of contract services
- e. Revenue received in fees from students?

**Answer:**

TAFE NSW operates on a financial year basis not a calendar year.

a) & b) OBF and CSO are part of its recurrent cluster grant.

c) Please refer to the current budget paper for the estimation of Smart and Skilled revenue – this is the entitlement grant.

d) and e) TAFE NSW budget revenue is not identified by source of payment received. Revenue is calculated on projected student numbers and activity.

**Question:**

15. What information has been provided to TAFE NSW by the government about the future of operational base funding (OBF)?

**Answer:**

Please refer to page 7 of the NSW Government's Statement of Owner Expectations, TAFE NSW.

[https://www.tafensw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/9001/soe.pdf](https://www.tafensw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/9001/soe.pdf)

**Question:**

16. What levels of OBF does TAFE NSW plan for in its forward planning? Please provide details of how this level is developed and how it is used in forward planning.

**ANSWER**

OBF is part of the recurrent cluster grant and is considered as part of the budget process with NSW Treasury.

**Question:**

17. What would be the impacts on TAFE NSW of a substantial reduction on OBF?

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW, like all Government agencies, is subject to budget variances and efficiency measures and manages them as they occur.

**Question:**

18. What information has been provided to TAFE NSW by the government about the future of Community Service Obligations payments (CSO)?

**ANSWER**

Please refer to page 8 of the NSW Government's Statement of Owner Expectations, TAFE NSW.

[https://www.tafensw.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/9001/soe.pdf](https://www.tafensw.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/9001/soe.pdf)

**Question:**

19. What levels of CSO does TAFE NSW plan for in its forward planning? Please provide details of how this level is developed and how it is used in forward planning.

**ANSWER**

This is considered as part of the Budget process with NSW Treasury.

**Question:**

20. What would be the impacts on TAFE NSW of a substantial reduction on CSO?

**ANSWER**

TAFE NSW, like all Government agencies, is subject to budget variances and efficiency measures and manages them as they occur.

**Question:**

21. What percentage of the total cost of all adjustments for students with special needs in TAFE is provided by:

- a. CSO
- b. Loadings under Smart and Skilled
- c. Other (please specify)?

**ANSWER**

This is variable, depending on the individual enrolment characteristics of students.

**Question:**

22. TAFE institutes are 'clawing back' a variable percentage of the qualification cost paid under Smart and Skilled:

- a. Please provide for each institute the percentage applied.
- b. Please explain why this is necessary and provide a breakdown of how the money is spent.
- c. Given that qualification prices were set by the government on the recommendation of IPART as the 'efficient cost of providing the training', what impact will the claw back have on quality and viability?
- d. What steps is TAFE NSW taking to minimise the impacts of the clawback on course delivery?

**ANSWER**

Loadings apply to all providers delivering government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled, including TAFE NSW.