



ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

2002

1. INTRODUCTION

The sessional orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 18 April 2002 established seven estimates committees to consider proposed expenditure under the Appropriation Bill 2002 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2002. Estimates Committee C was appointed to examine and report on the proposed expenditure for the organisational units within the portfolios of the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and the Minister for the Arts, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industrial Relations.

The committee conducted a public hearing on Thursday 11 July 2002 to take evidence from the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and the Minister for Arts, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industrial Relations and their respective officers. The transcript of the public hearing can be accessed at the Queensland Parliament's Hansard web-page at www.parliament.qld.gov.au.

For the purpose of examining the proposed expenditure for the organisational units allocated to it, the committee considered information obtained at the public hearing in conjunction with: budget papers and Ministerial Portfolio Statements (MPS) tabled by the Treasurer; written responses to questions on notice submitted to the Ministers by the committee prior to the public hearing; and other information provided by the Ministers.

Accompanying this report is a volume of "Additional Information" presented by the committee to the Legislative Assembly. The additional information includes the minutes of the committee's meetings, documents tabled at the hearing and answers to questions on notice asked before and during the public hearing.

2. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND YOUTH AND THE ARTS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The role of the Department of Employment, Training and Youth includes:

- building a "job ready" work force;
- supporting employment in traditional and emerging industries;
- working in collaboration with industry, business and the community;
- valuing young people and encouraging their participation in decision making; and
- recognising and responding to the special needs of young people in transition from education and training to employment.

The total appropriation for the Department of Employment, Training and Youth is \$583 148 000.

The vision of Arts Queensland is to build a creative Queensland and its mission is to achieve this by working with its partners to create a cultural environment that maximises quality of life, social equity and economic independence in Queensland.

The total appropriation for Arts Queensland is \$174 339 000.

The MPS provides the following output summary:

OUTPUT	TOTAL COST \$'000
Employment Initiatives	107,083
Vocational Education, Training and Youth Services	746,907
Assistance to the Arts	120,928

2.2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the budget as proposed by the Department of Employment, Training and Youth for the 2002-03 year include:

- \$3m additional funding for apprenticeship and traineeship places;
- \$63m for training up to 28 000 apprentices and trainees;
- \$2.5m for the Youth Access Program which provides support to the estimated 2200 students at risk of not completing secondary school in the 2002 and 2003 school years;
- \$2.5m to community employment programs designed to assist unemployed school leavers who are at risk of long-term unemployment;
- \$10m for new traineeships under the Youth for the Environment and Local Communities Program;
- \$5.5m available to fund the Central Queensland Training and Employment Strategy; and
- \$2.7m to the Cape York Training Strategy.

Highlights in the budget as proposed by Arts Queensland for the 2002-03 year include:

- \$7.7m recurrent for the Millennium Arts Project including: an extra \$3.85m recurrent for the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art; and an extra \$3.35m recurrent for the redeveloped State Library of Queensland;
- \$6m annually for three years for the maintenance of the Queensland Cultural Centre;
- \$7m for regional capital infrastructure;
- \$1m for government youth arts initiatives;
- \$23.5m for Queensland's artists, cultural workers and arts organisations;
- \$8.8m for the completion of the Queensland Heritage Trails Network; and
- \$31.8m for capital development as part of the Millennium Arts Project.

2.3 PUBLIC HEARING

During the public hearing the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth, and the Minister for the Arts responded to questions from the committee in relation to a wide range of matters, including:

- the Regional Arts Development Fund;
- the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music;
- changes at the Queensland Museum;
- new strategic directions for the State Library of Queensland;
- the film and television industry in Queensland and the Pacific Film and Television Commission;
- the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative;
- articulation arrangements negotiated between TAFE Queensland and the tertiary sector;
- the Community Jobs Plan;
- programs to assist mature-age workers;
- the Worker Assistance Program;
- the Central Queensland Training and Employment Strategy;
- the role of the department in the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy;
- the unemployment rate;
- administration of funds to, and integrity of, private registered training providers;
- Community Training Partnerships Program;
- the Cape York Training Strategy;
- the Youth Access Program;
- the Indigenous Employment Policy;
- the Youth Reconnected Initiative;
- funding for agricultural colleges;
- exporting TAFE Queensland;
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Sector Employment Development Unit;
- the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund; and
- funding for traineeships.

3. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The MPS states that the purpose of the Department of Industrial Relations is ‘to lead policy development and service delivery that supports safe, fair and productive work environments in Queensland’. The Department’s vision is ‘safe, fair and productive work environments that contribute to the social and economic well-being of Queenslanders’.

The total appropriation for the Department of Industrial Relations is \$59 986 000.

The MPS provides the following output summary:

OUTPUT	TOTAL COST \$'000
Industrial Relations Services	24,883
Administration of the Industrial Court and Commission System	6,270
Workplace Health and Safety Services	42,944

3.2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the budget as proposed by the Department for the 2002-03 financial year include:

- an additional \$2.1m, over four years, to improve workplace health and safety investigations and prosecution activities;
- \$2.6m over four years, allocated to general inspection programs to improve employers’ compliance with industrial relations legislation; and
- changes to an administrative arrangement between the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Employment and Training in 2001-02 for delivery of the regional component of employment, training and youth services resulted in a transfer of funding to DET in 2002-03 of \$14.8m.

3.3 PUBLIC HEARING

During the public hearing the Minister for Industrial Relations answered questions from the committee in relation to a wide range of matters, including:

- public sector wage agreements;
- the role of the central bargaining unit in overseeing public sector wage negotiations;
- initiatives to reduce workplace bullying and harassment of public sector employees;
- WorkCover claims from workplace stress;
- the professional consultancy and training services provided to public sector agencies by Workplace Consulting Queensland;
- a proposed review to develop a new industrial relations model for the public sector;
- levels of departmental and interdepartmental consultation and communication;
- the functions of Public Sector Development Queensland Incorporated as an industry training advisory board focussed on vocational education and training for the public sector;
- the Government Online Learning Delivery project to give public sector employees access to online learning programs from TAFE Queensland;
- proposed new electrical safety legislation to give a framework for electrical safety in homes and workplaces and the establishment of a Queensland wide electrical safety inspectorate;
- enforcement activities of the Division of Workplace Health and Safety and the Electrical Safety Office;
- the National Competition Policy review of Queensland electrical licensing laws;
- conciliation in the current nurses dispute;
- protection of workers’ superannuation and leave entitlements;
- access to employment benefits for seasonal workers;
- enforcement of award wage standards;
- establishment of a work and family unit and a work and family package for casual employees;
- implementing of pay equity inquiry outcomes;
- the Young Workers Advisory Service on youth employment rights;
- a community based training and support program to improve workplace health and safety in indigenous communities; and
- health and safety issues in the sugar industry.

4. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The responsibilities of the Department of Education include: preschool, primary and secondary education; students with special needs; assistance to non-State education; assistance to tertiary institutions; and two new statutory authorities – the Queensland Studies Authority and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board.

The total appropriation for the Department of Education is \$4 568 073 000.

The MPS provides the following output summary:

OUTPUT	TOTAL COST \$'000
Preschool Education	110,367
Primary Education	2,062,373
Secondary Education	1,330,312
Students with Special Needs	360,542
Portfolio Services – Assistance to Non-State Education	769
Portfolio Services – Assistance to Tertiary Institutions	3,578

4.2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the budget as proposed for the 2002-03 financial year include:

- \$23m in new funding in addition to \$36.4m in existing funding in 2002-2003, and a further \$35m in new funding in 2003-2004, to improve ICT access and ICT skills of students and teachers;
- \$60m over four years to enhance services for students with disabilities;
- employment of an additional 224 teachers from the commencement of the 2003 school year to support growth and new facilities. An additional 158 teachers, over and above growth, will be employed for the commencement of the 2003 school year;
- \$1m for the continuation of the New Basics trial in selected schools;
- expansion of the *Partners for Success* strategy across the state to foster further development of school-community initiatives and accelerate the learning and employment outcomes of indigenous people;

- \$151m to implement a total package for improving student literacy outcomes in State schools including:
 - maintaining 20 Learning and Development Centres (Literacy);
 - implementing interventionist strategies;
 - development of whole-school literacy strategies to address the improvement of literacy outcomes for students, as well as learning and development resources for the teaching of reading.
- \$6.7m over two years for the 8 Centres of Excellence in Technology, Maths and Science to support innovative student programs, specialist training of teachers and residential workshops for outstanding students and to establish community partnerships;
- total capital works program of \$240.3m including the provision of two new schools, more than 105 additional classrooms, and continuation of the Secondary School Renewal Program and the Cooler Schools Program;
- \$74.3m for increases in State school teachers' salaries;
- \$3.2m to support the conversion of casual administration assistants to permanency and the reclassification of school registrars;
- a new classification structure for teacher aides; and
- \$7m to new and upgraded teacher accommodation facilities.

4.3 PUBLIC HEARING

At the public hearing the Minister for Education responded to questions from the committee in relation to a wide range of matters, including:

- funding for information and communication technologies;
- employment of new teachers;
- costs and objectives of community consultation forums held throughout the state;
- preparing for school trials;
- the Career Change program;
- claims for workplace stress by employees of the Department and steps being taken by the Department to assist in the management of workplace stress;
- the New Basics program;
- the establishment of the Queensland Studies Authority;

- vocational education and training for students at risk of not completing 12 years of schooling;
- behaviour management in school communities and alternative schooling arrangements;
- the Work Force Diversity and Equity Program for Education Queensland;
- initiatives in response to the Cape York Justice Study, including the establishment of the Western Cape College;
- the Federal government's capital grant;
- teacher learning and professional development and rewarding teacher excellence;
- steps being taken to ensure equality of service for children with special needs;
- changes to staffing levels within the Department;
- biotechnology in schools;
- virtual schooling in remote areas;
- a trial of government financial assistance to students in remote communities;
- hospital school services;
- the Cooler Schools program; and
- school-based traineeships and apprenticeships.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditures, as stated in the Appropriation Bill 2002 for the organisational units within the portfolios referred to Estimates Committee C for examination, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The committee thanks Ministers and their staff for their cooperation and assistance during the estimates process.

Dianne Reilly MP
Chair

29 July 2002

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Dianne Reilly MP (Chair)
Mr Bob Quinn MP (Deputy Chair)
Hon. Vince Lester MP
Ms Jan Jarratt MP
Hon. Kevin Lingard MP
Ms Carolyn Male MP*
Mr Steven Rodgers MP

SECRETARIAT

Ms Sarah Lim (Research Director)
Ms Renee Easten (Research Officer)
Ms Andrea Musch (Executive Assistant)

* In accordance with section 15(1) of the Sessional Orders, Ms Male MP replaced Mr Don Livingston MP as a member of Estimates Committee C on 8 July 2002.

