

**Question on Notice
No. 946
Asked Tuesday 31 August 2004**

Mr Rowell asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (**Mr Barton**):

QUESTION:

With reference to the Dalby, Burdekin, Longreach and Emerald Agricultural Colleges

Will he detail for each college (reported separately) for each of 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 what hours of training have been delivered against the set outcomes?

ANSWER:

The information below relates to training delivered through public funding provided through the Department of Employment and Training measured by “annual hours curriculum”.

Dalby Agricultural College

Direct Grant Output in Annual Hours Curriculum (AHC)			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	154,000	174,489	113%
2002-03	154,000	185,250	120%
2003-04	154,000	152,542	99%

Competitive Funded Output in Annual Hours Curriculum			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	115,000	112,445	98%
2002-03	109,000	138,081	127%
2003-04	145,650	149,108	102%

Longreach Pastoral College

Direct Grant Output in Annual Hours Curriculum (AHC)			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	132,500	83,883	63%
2002-03	141,000	168,639	120%
2003-04	148,338	107,707	73%

Competitive Funded Output in Annual Hours Curriculum			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	43,312	41,139	95%
2002-03	32,500	38,146	117%
2003-04	27,270	19,398	71%

Emerald Agricultural College

Direct Grant Output in Annual Hours Curriculum (AHC)			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	159,600	166,815	105%
2002-03	160,000	155,152	97%
2003-04	166,400	176,068	106%

Competitive Funded Output in Annual Hours Curriculum			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	52,880	36,934	70%
2002-03	33,100	21,027	64%
2003-04	28,942	31,541	109%

Australian College of Tropical Agriculture (ACTA)

Direct Grant Output in Annual Hours Curriculum (AHC)			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	153,750	154,074	100.2%
2002-03	157,500	165,983	105%
2003-04	180,000	179,451	99.7%

Competitive Funded Output in Annual Hours Curriculum			
Year	Target	Actual	Actual as a % of target
2001-02	85,460	94,029	110%
2002-03	110,500	142,769	129%
2003-04	119,784	131,398	110%

On the surface, three of the Colleges appear to have been meeting their training delivery targets. However, this has been achieved through the provision of over-servicing and excessive amounts of training to individual students.

The Department of Employment and Training has analysed the level of Queensland Government funded training delivered to individual students in 2003 at each of the colleges. This has shown that 50% of students across all colleges have received more than two and a half times the level of training recommended by industry for the qualification being undertaken to be achieved. In 2003, the proportion of students in this category for the individual colleges were:

- Dalby Agricultural College 77%;
- Longreach Pastoral College 60%;
- Emerald Agricultural College 43%;
- Australian College of Tropical Agriculture 29%.

In addition, the Colleges deliver a significant proportion of Queensland Government funded training to interstate students. This results in the training needs of Queensland's rural and remote communities going under-serviced as the Colleges direct Queensland Government funding to the training of interstate residential students. In 2003, the proportion of students from interstate for the individual colleges were:

- Longreach Pastoral College 50%;
- Dalby Agricultural College 28%;
- Emerald Agricultural College 16%;
- Australian College of Tropical Agriculture 15%.

The inefficient use of Queensland's public funding, both through over-servicing and training of interstate students, is denying many Queenslanders access to training through the Colleges' important infrastructure across the State.

It is also the case that there are significant fluctuations from year to year in the proportion of targeted Queensland Government funded training delivered by the Colleges (for example, Longreach's figures for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively are 63%, 120% and 73%). Due to a lack of available data and information, the reasons for such fluctuations are not readily apparent. However, improvements in the management of data and information is an important aim of the review of the Agricultural Colleges that has recently commenced. This will enable a better understanding of the demand and supply factors surrounding agricultural training in Queensland and assist in planning for future needs.