

Question on Notice

No. 1513

Asked 29 November 2006

Mrs Scott asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford)

QUESTION:

- (1) Will he outline the positive impact of the amalgamation of three TAFE colleges, including the Logan TAFE College, into the Metropolitan south Institute of TAFE?
- (2) How will this benefit the people of Logan who access this institute?

ANSWER:

On 1 July 2006, the Logan Institute of TAFE merged with the Moreton and Yeronga Institutes of TAFE to form the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE. The amalgamation has allowed a broader delivery of programs to all campuses. Approximately 15 additional programs have been offered in both traditional and new industry training areas at these campuses, including hairdressing, hospitality, schools pathways programs, English as a second language and nursing.

The Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE has lead accountability for ensuring the quality of the delivery of nursing training in Queensland TAFEs. A key focus of the Logan campus is the development of a Health and Community Services Industries Precinct, which is a strategic partnership between the Institute, Logan Hospital and Griffith University. Two-hundred new enrolments in health-associated courses are expected by Easter 2007. These courses were not previously offered to diploma level within Logan.

Newly enrolled students will have increased options and the percentage of paraprofessional qualifications will increase, in line with the *Queensland Skills Plan*. Students will be able to participate in both enrolled and registered nursing programs concurrently. This will increase participation and retention rates, as the students will have the ability to 'earn while they learn'. Partnerships in health have been established with seven hospitals to provide enrolled nursing training on-site.

The institute's vision is to develop a service industries facility promoting the institute as an attractive training destination in the wider community and international marketplace, especially for the Diploma in Hospitality and associated areas. The institute has also developed partnerships pathways in childcare with Griffith University.

Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE has agreement from the Logan Employment Taskforce to set employability skills as the key priority for 2007. The new initiative allows the institute to offer all community groups—including those disadvantaged and unemployed—vocational education and training programs that have employability skills embedded in the training.

The institute has also maximised delivery opportunities for school pathway students by delivering training in schools. Successful negotiations to allow institute trainers to use school kitchens to deliver training to school-based students have allowed the institute to expand school pathway options.

Logan students will have additional accessibility to resources from the former Yeronga and Moreton Institutes of TAFE for online, electronic learning tools, especially those students participating in Adult Migrant Education programs and literacy/numeracy programs.