

Question on Notice

No. 326

Asked on 7 May 2014

Mrs Scott asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the total expected cost of the amalgamation of the Brisbane Institute of Technology, the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE and Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE and the amount expended to date?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The Queensland Government is committed to the ongoing reform of TAFE Queensland as part of the overall reform agenda for vocational education and training services in this State. *Great skills. Real opportunities* re-affirms this commitment to TAFE Queensland, including the provision of adequate funding to enable the organisation to become a more competitive, responsive, innovative and flexible training provider. This includes the establishment of a single TAFE institute for the Brisbane region providing a range of programs aimed at skilling Queenslanders to support business and industry. This in turn assists in the continued growth of the State's economy.

I can advise that specific funding has not been directly allocated to the merger of the three metropolitan TAFE institutes, rather, to assist TAFE Queensland to realign and revitalise its operations, resources have been allocated to the overall TAFE reform program. In 2012–13, \$1.9 million was made available by the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) to establish the TAFE Reform Unit. In 2013–14, an additional \$5.5 million was provided by the Australian Government under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform to continue the TAFE reform work.

The TAFE Reform Unit has been responsible for the management and coordination of the TAFE reform process including overall project management; governance and legislative processes; marketing, communication and branding; ICT projects; human resources; and finance functions. As well as drawing on internal DETE expertise, professional consulting and contracting services in identified specialist areas have been engaged as required.

A key element of the TAFE reform process has been the establishment of six regional Directors of TAFE Reform. Appointed in early 2013, these Directors have led the strategic and cultural changes within TAFE institute regions. The Director of TAFE Reform for the Brisbane Metropolitan Region has been responsible for the oversight of the merger of Brisbane North and Metropolitan South Institutes of TAFE and the Southbank Institute of Technology.

Considerable work has already been undertaken in relation to the amalgamation process for the three Brisbane-based institutes, including the establishment of a new staffing structure, a comprehensive review of all products and the centralisation of corporate service functions. This has resulted in economies of scale as duplicate functions across the three institutes have been identified and streamlined.