

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 511

asked on Tuesday 9 May 2023

DR M ROBINSON ASKED MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS, MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE
(HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to Aviation and Aerospace being a growing industry in Southeast Queensland based on significant saturation of defence, airline, and general aviation and the significant personnel shortages in the aviation sector, especially in aviation maintenance—

Will the Minister detail (a) the government's commitment to fund engineer training in the private sector, (b) who is the beneficiary of that funding and (c) what strategies are in place to ensure fair and equitable dispersion of training funds for the benefit of industry sector employers and trainees?

ANSWER:

Aviation Australia (AA) is the exclusive Skills Assure Supplier contracted by the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training (DYJESBT) to deliver training in aviation and aeroskills under the Engineering Industry Training Group (ITG). Aviation training delivered under the Engineering ITG focuses on aircraft maintenance and mechanics.

AA was established by the Queensland Government in 2001 specifically to support development and growth of the aviation industry.

AA is a wholly owned subsidiary of TAFE Queensland, providing aviation related training across key aviation and aerospace areas – aircraft maintenance engineering, flight safety training, remotely piloted aircraft systems and advanced pilot training.

Through DYJESBT, the Queensland Government provides accessible and affordable vocational education and training (VET) programs to support individuals to participate in training and develop skills that lead to sustainable employment. VET investment targets key industry areas, including aviation and aeroskills, and priority cohorts to build the collective capacity to meet workforce needs, through the:

- Aerospace Gateway to Industry Schools Program which supports growth and development of an effective workforce for the aerospace industry; and
- Aviation Strategy to provide an institutional pathway for Aircraft Maintenance Engineer apprenticeships to address skills shortages in the aviation industry.

The Queensland Government funds 11 qualifications aligned to Aviation, noting Aviation qualifications are delivered under two different national training packages/ITGs – Engineering ITG (seven qualifications) and Transport and Distribution ITG (four qualifications).

Engineering ITG qualifications focus specifically on aircraft maintenance and mechanics.

The Queensland Government invests approximately \$1.5 million annually in aviation Engineering ITG qualifications through a range of qualifications and pathways including apprenticeships and traineeships, with AA delivering all training to approximately 350 students per annum, making it a thin market.

Aviation trade qualifications are currently managed as restricted qualifications in Queensland based on the advice of industry with delivery managed solely through AA.