

# **2018 – 19 Budget Estimates**

**Report No. 5, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament**  
**Education, Employment and Small Business Committee**  
**August 2018**

## **Education, Employment and Small Business Committee**

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### **Acknowledgements**

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## Contents

<b>Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Chair’s foreword .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Role of the committee .....	1
1.2 Aim of this report.....	1
1.3 Other Members’ participation.....	2
<b>2. Recommendation .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Department of Education .....	4
3.2 Budget highlights .....	5
3.2.1 Portfolio area highlights – Education portfolio .....	6
3.2.2 Issues raised at the public hearing – Education portfolio .....	8
3.2.3 Portfolio area highlights – Industrial Relations portfolio .....	9
3.2.4 Issues raised at the public hearing – Industrial Relations portfolio .....	10
<b>4. Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development .....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Department of Employment, Small Business and Training .....	11
4.2 Department of Environment and Science .....	11
4.3 Budget highlights .....	12
4.3.1 Portfolio area highlights – Employment and Small Business portfolio area .....	13
4.3.2 Issues raised at the public hearing – Employment and Small Business portfolio area .....	14
4.3.3 Portfolio area highlights – Training and Skills Development portfolio area.....	15
4.3.4 Issues raised at the public hearing – Training and Skills Development portfolio area.....	16
<b>Statement of Reservation.....</b>	<b>17</b>

## Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
committee	Education, Employment and Small Business Committee
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DESBT	Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
DoE	Department of Education
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (Australia)
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
OIR	Office of Industrial Relations
QCAA	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
QCT	Queensland College of Teachers
RTI	Right to Information
Standing Orders	Standing Rules and Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

## Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible Ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio areas. This was undertaken through questions on notice and the public hearing process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I wish to thank the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, their departmental staff, and the statutory officers for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the estimates process, and acknowledge the other non-committee members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process.



Ms Leanne Linard MP  
Chair

August 2018



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Role of the committee

The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee (committee) is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament which commenced on 15 February 2018 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders).

The committee's areas of responsibility are:

- Education
- Industrial Relations
- Employment and Small Business, and
- Training and Skills Development.<sup>1</sup>

On 12 June 2018, the Appropriation Bill 2018 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.<sup>2</sup>

On 2 August 2018, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations; the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development; and other witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed at: [http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2018/2018\\_08\\_02\\_EstimatesECC.pdf](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2018/2018_08_02_EstimatesECC.pdf).

### 1.2 Aim of this report

The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information provided in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken during the hearing, and
- additional information given in relation to answers.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee considered.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all of the questions were received.

Answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice; documents tabled during the hearing; answers to questions and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing; and minutes of the committee's estimates meetings, are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6. The schedule provides that departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations or other administrative units related to the relevant Minister's responsibilities regarding these areas are included.

<sup>2</sup> Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

### **1.3 Other Members' participation**

The committee gave leave for other Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in the hearing. The following Members participated:

- Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, Manager of Opposition Business and Member for Kawana
- Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Shadow Minister for Employment and Small Business, Shadow Minister for Training and Skills Development and Member for Maroochydore
- Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar, and
- Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa.



## 2. Recommendation

Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

**Recommendation 1**

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### 3. Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

#### 3.1 Department of Education

The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations is responsible for each of the three service areas of the Department of Education (DoE).

Machinery-of-government changes effective from December 2017 included the transfer of the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) from the Queensland Treasury to the DoE.<sup>3</sup>

The three service areas of the department are:

- Early Childhood Education and Care – providing Queensland children with access to quality early education and care programs to support childhood learning and development and successful transitions to school
- School Education – delivering Prep to Year 12 in state schools to engage students in learning and support successful transitions to further education, training and/or work; and administering funding to Queensland non-state schools, and
- Industrial Relations – delivering workplace health and safety and electrical safety services; and helping to ensure fair, safe and productive work places in Queensland through legislative compliance, enforcement, education and engagement activities.<sup>4</sup>

The Minister's areas of responsibility are administered through the DoE and through the statutory authority the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), which is responsible for providing Kindergarten to Year 12 syllabuses and guidelines, and associated assessment, testing, reporting, certification and tertiary entrance services to Queensland schools.<sup>5</sup>

In accordance with Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the QCAA attended the estimates hearing and was available for direct questioning by the committee.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 4.

<sup>4</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, pp 2-10.

<sup>5</sup> QCAA, 'What we do', *About us*, 15 October 2015, <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/about/what-we-do>; State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 36.

<sup>6</sup> Within the education and industrial relations portfolio areas respectively, statutory bodies the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) and government-owned workers' compensation insurer WorkCover also report to the Minister. However, education regulator the QCT derives its income from the registration and associated fees it administers (95 per cent) and other own-revenue income sources; and self-funded WorkCover operates as an independent, commercial enterprise. These entities therefore do not receive funds from their portfolio area appropriation, and are not subject to the same direct-questioning requirements applicable to the QCAA and other entities listed under Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. See: QCT, *Annual Report, 2017*, 2017, pp 41, 55, 62-63; WorkCover Queensland, *Organisational structure*, 21 February 2018, <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/about-us/workcover-queensland/organisational-structure>

### 3.2 Budget highlights

The following table compares the appropriation for the DoE for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriation	Budget 2017-18 \$'000	Est. Actual 2017-18 \$'000	Vote 2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
Departmental services	9,517,394	8,787,755	8,803,118
Equity adjustment	60,197	88,917	138,400
<i>Administered Items</i> <sup>7</sup>	3,383,861	3,412,811	3,550,824
<b>Vote</b>	<b>12,961,452</b>	<b>12,289,483</b>	<b>12,492,342</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p 9.

Consistent with previous years, a very significant proportion of the department's appropriation will be utilised within the School Education service area, which has by far the largest budgeted expenses of the three service areas for 2018-19 (based on expenditure of appropriation receipts and other income sources).

The relative departmental services expenses budgeted for each of the three service areas in 2018-19 are illustrated in the table below.

Department of Education Expenses*	Budget 2017-18 \$'000	Est. Actual 2017-18 \$'000	Budget 2018-19 \$'000
<i>Early Childhood Education and Care</i>	314,755	251,906	270,773
<i>School Education</i>	8,626,333	8,593,613	8,994,639
<i>Industrial Relations</i>	71,102	76,215	155,781
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>9,012,190</b>	<b>8,921,734</b>	<b>9,421,193</b>

\*Note: Expenses include planned expenditure of the departmental services appropriation, appropriation revenue deferred from previous year/s, and other revenue (including from user charges and fees, etc.)

Source: State Budget 2018-2019, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 17.

Budgeted expenses for the QCAA for 2018-19 are \$65.107 million.<sup>8</sup> This amount includes expenditure of controlled and administered funds from the DoE appropriation, together with revenue from user fees and charges and other income.<sup>9</sup> The QCAA is expected to return an operating surplus of \$5.428 million for the financial year.<sup>10</sup>

Key portfolio area budget highlights and issues considered by the committee in relation to the education and industrial relations portfolios respectively are discussed in the sections to follow.

<sup>7</sup> Administered items are administered grants, transfer payments or funds paid from the Consolidated Fund that the department administers on behalf of the government, but over which it does not exercise management control or discretion. See: Queensland Treasury and Trade, *Overview of Queensland's Financial Accountability Framework*, Queensland Government, November 2014, p 7.

<sup>8</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 39.

<sup>9</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, pp 15, 31.

<sup>10</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 39.

### 3.2.1 Portfolio area highlights – Education portfolio

The combined 2018-19 expenses budgeted for the two education portfolio service areas of Early Childhood Education and Care, and School Education, total approximately \$9.265 million. This includes an expected \$68.032 million in grants and other contributions for the QCAA across the financial year<sup>11</sup> and constitutes a 3.6 per cent increase on the \$8.941 million budgeted for the two service areas in 2017-18.<sup>12</sup>

Budget highlights for the Early Childhood Education and Care service area include:

- the development and implementation of a whole-of-government Early Years Plan to support Queensland children’s learning and development
- investing \$24.3 million in 2018-19 to support the operation of Early Years Places<sup>13</sup> in more than 50 locations across Queensland
- embedding an early childhood learning and development focus in family support services through the Pathways for Early Learning and Development initiative in 12 priority locations across the state
- delivering greater access to kindergarten in up to 38 remote communities through the Remote Kindergarten Pilot in state schools
- expanding an existing partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health to promote the importance of early childhood education through the Deadly Kindies program
- assisting kindergartens to develop inclusive programs to support children with disability
- offering families with children under one year of age free playgroup membership, and
- the ongoing implementation of the Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Action Plan and Regulation for Quality initiative, to foster a highly skilled and capable early childcare workforce and service delivery.<sup>14</sup>

Highlights for the School Education service area for 2018-19 include:

- employing more than 1,000 teachers as part of a four-year commitment to employ more than 3,700 teachers
- investing \$107 million over three years to develop and implement the Teaching Queensland’s Future program to meet demand for quality teachers across the state
- allocating \$14.4 million over four years from 2018-19 (including an allocation of \$1.5 million for non-state schools), to employ up to 45 additional instrumental music teachers
- investing \$31.1 million over four years from 2017-18 to establish four Centres for Learning and Wellbeing across rural and remote Queensland, to support teacher professional development and wellbeing
- boosting the Building Future Schools Fund by \$308 million over six years from 2018-19 to a total of \$808 million, \$94.5 million of which will be spent in 2018-19, to deliver world class learning environments for students and address enrolment growth pressures in state schools

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<sup>11</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 39.

<sup>12</sup> State Budget 2018-2019, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 17.

<sup>13</sup> Early years places offer families a mix of childhood activities and support services in one place. Each Early Years Place has a different mix of services, which can include playgroups, early childhood education and care, health services and family and parenting support. See DoE, ‘Early Years Place’, *The Early Years Count*, 2018, <http://earlyyearscount.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/age-spaces/early-years-place/>.

<sup>14</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, pp 4, 20; State Budget 2018-19, Capital Statement, p 18.

- investing \$125.2 million (of \$250 million over two years from 2018-19) for additional facilities in state secondary schools, to accommodate the six full secondary cohorts in state schools in 2020
- investing \$15 million as part of \$235 million in funding over four years, to enhance and upgrade facilities in 17 high schools under the Renewing Our Schools program
- investing \$210.4 million in school maintenance in 2018-19, together with an additional \$8 million (of \$25.6 million over two years from 2018-19), for the delivery of renewal works at 31 state schools
- investing \$47 million as part of the three-year, \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy in Schools program, to upgrade and install solar and energy efficiency measures in state schools
- implementing the Digital Technologies curriculum (including coding and robotics) in state schools and commencing the Advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiative to provide STEM expertise in state primary schools (\$81.3 million in funding allocated over four years from 2017-18)
- investing up to \$1.5 million over three years from 2018-19 to recruit and train up to 3,000 reading volunteers, to reintroduce the Ready Reading program in partnership with Volunteering Queensland
- providing \$4.4 million in 2018-19 to continue the delivery of Clontarf Foundation Academies to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects for male Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- committing \$1.7 million in 2018-19 for the Stars Foundation, Brisbane Broncos, Netball Queensland and the Girls Academy program, to implement programs in Queensland state schools for female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- continuing to implement enhancements for school administrative and support staff under the \$102 million, four-year initiative to recognise school business managers and schools officers and enhance school administrative staffing allocations
- contributing to the development and implementation of the Queensland Government response to the *Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*
- continuing to implement recommendations from the *Review of education for students with disability* and delivering associated policy initiatives (including the Autism Hub and Reading Centre), by working with schools, teachers, support staff and other stakeholders to lift learning outcomes for students with disability, and
- various other ongoing policy initiatives aimed at preventing and addressing bullying and cyberbullying, engaging vulnerable and disengaged young people, and improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.<sup>15</sup>

These various education portfolio area activities include proposed 2018-19 capital purchases of \$674.3 million; of which \$5.9 million is earmarked for the redevelopment of the QCAA's information and communication technology systems, to support the new senior assessment system.<sup>16</sup>

A total of \$98.5 million in capital grants will be provided to the non-state schooling sector and student hostels for 2018-19.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 4.

<sup>16</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Capital Statement 2018-19, pp 42, 51.

<sup>17</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Capital Statement 2018-19, pp 41-42.

### **3.2.2 Issues raised at the public hearing – Education portfolio**

Issues raised by the committee in relation to the portfolio area of Education include:

- infrastructure funding to state secondary schools and the 2020 Ready program to increase classroom capacity and expand facilities
- the government's boosting of the Building Future Schools Fund to deliver new state schools in growth areas
- the choice of Dutton Park as the location of the new Inner City South State Secondary College, including costings and funding sources and government land assets in the Dutton Park precinct
- energy efficiency in state schools and the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program
- funding for air-conditioning and air-conditioning maintenance in state schools
- government measures to ensure access to quality kindergarten programs, including the extension of the Remote Kindergarten Pilot in schools and e-kindy options
- access to quality early childhood education and care in the Weipa and Napranum communities
- the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme Plus Kindy Support subsidy, and the loss of federal funding under the Child Care Subsidy scheme
- the regulation of early childhood education and care services, including the Regulating for Quality initiative and the funding allocation from the Commonwealth's National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care
- decreased federal funding for Queensland schools resulting from the discontinuation of the National Education Reform Agreement
- government investment in the Independent Public Schools program in 2018-19, including an accompanying evaluation of the program by consultancy firm Potential Plus for the DoE and arrangements surrounding the tender process
- the number of acting principals in rural and regional schools and the need for a more permanent regional teaching workforce
- incentives to bring teachers to rural areas, including the Remote Area Incentive Scheme and rural incentive trials
- the growth of Independent Public Schools in rural and regional areas and teachers' accumulation of teacher transfer points at these institutions
- the review into the classification structure of promotional positions and increases to principals' wages
- the Queensland Council of Unions' Young Workers Hub initiative and potential engagement activities at Queensland schools
- Ministerial meetings with union representatives
- Brisbane State High School – enrolment pressures, fraudulent enrolments and the enrolment management plan
- cross-border collaboration on education and students from New South Wales attending Palm Beach Currumbin High School, and related enrolment management plans
- literacy in Queensland schools and engaging volunteers to help students with reading under the Ready Reading program
- the progress of Queensland students, and particularly indigenous students, in relation to the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

- the Queensland government's state-wide evaluation of NAPLAN tests and the role NAPLAN plays in driving student outcomes and school and system improvements
- support for students to develop STEM skills, including through STEM champions, STEM learning pathways, STEM Girl Power Camps and the Creating Queensland's Future Coding Competition.
- the Ministerial Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance Taskforce and the introduction of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems
- funding for initiatives in schools to improve the mental and physical health of children and youth
- resource and budget allocations to fund students with a disability as per the recommendations in the Deloitte Queensland disability review, and
- Ministerial attendance at the opening of four new state schools and associated costs of plaques and amendments to plaques.

### **3.2.3 Portfolio area highlights – Industrial Relations portfolio**

The Industrial Relations portfolio area is administered through the OIR within the DoE. The OIR is comprised of the following:

- Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
- Electrical Safety Office
- Workers' Compensation Regulator, and
- Industrial Relations.<sup>18</sup>

Within the planned \$155.871 million in departmental services expenses budgeted for the Industrial Relations service area in 2018-19, highlights include:

- continuing to implement recommendations from the Best Practice Review of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Final Report 2017
- implementing recommendations from the 2018 review report on the five-yearly review of the operation of the workers' compensation scheme under the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*
- progressing actions in response to the report of the parliamentary select committee on the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland
- increasing the number of occupational therapists on WorkCover's Return to Work Services Provider Panel
- investigating the incidence of wage theft to inform the government and support the federal jurisdiction that regulates private sector industrial relations
- ensuring the successful implementation of Queensland's *Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017* and resourcing the enforcement of the licensing scheme, and
- partnering with stakeholders to implement the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018-2022.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Queensland Government, *Office of Industrial Relations*, 8 March 2018, <https://qed.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/OIR>

<sup>19</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DoE, p 10.

**3.2.4 Issues raised at the public hearing – Industrial Relations portfolio**

Issues raised by the committee in relation to the portfolio area of Industrial Relations include:

- the number of complaints received from staff in relation to claims of bullying or intimidation from trade union officials
- the delivery of training for mandatory health and safety representatives at Queensland workplaces
- the new regulations to improve safety in the amusement ride and theme park industries
- the introduction and progress of the new labour hire licensing scheme and the government's response to issues of wage theft
- the investigation of fraudulent WorkCover claims and the Q-Comp regulatory budget
- the increase in annual levies payable by self-insurers to the Workers' Compensation Regulator
- WorkCover premiums and the money saved by employers last financial year in relation to discounts on premiums, and
- domestic violence leave and the recommendations in the *Not Now, Not Ever* report.



## 4. Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development

### 4.1 Department of Employment, Small Business and Training

The Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development is responsible for each of the three service areas of the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT). The three service areas are:

- Employment – focussed on increasing employment opportunities for all Queenslanders, undertaking policy and strategic engagement activities, and delivering key government employment programs
- Small Business Services – focussed on delivering products and services to small business to enable growth and seamless interaction with government, and
- Training and Skills – focussed on improving the skills of Queenslanders through the delivery of vocational education and training, and supporting publicly-funded training providers to deliver high quality training.<sup>20</sup>

The Minister's areas of responsibility are administered primarily through DESBT and the statutory authority TAFE Queensland.<sup>21</sup>

In accordance with Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the CEO of TAFE Queensland attended the estimates hearing and was available for direct questioning by the committee.

### 4.2 Department of Environment and Science

In addition to her responsibility for DESBT, the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development also has a responsibility in relation to one area of the employment portfolio that is administered by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) – that is, for protected area management on Moreton Island (Mulgumpin) and North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah).<sup>22</sup>

The DES National Parks service area provides these protected area management services, in partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,<sup>23</sup> to support the administration of the *North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011* and the work of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>20</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, pp 3-7.

<sup>21</sup> Within the training and skills development portfolio, the independent statutory authority Jobs Queensland also reports to the Minister for Training and Skills Development, and is charged with providing expert on matters relating to future skills needs, workforce development and planning, and the apprenticeship and traineeship system. Whilst Jobs Queensland is established independently to the department, DESBT meets all of its budget, financial management and operational requirements (including staffing the Jobs Queensland Secretariat with departmental officers from the Training and Skills division). Jobs Queensland therefore does not administer its own funds from the portfolio area appropriation, and is not subject to the same direct-questioning requirements applicable to the TAFE Queensland and other entities listed under Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders. See: Jobs Queensland, *Year in review: Annual report for 2016-17*, Queensland Government, 2017, p 5.

<sup>22</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DES, p 1.

<sup>23</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DES, p.12

<sup>24</sup> Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade, *Portfolio Priorities Statement*, 27 February 2018, <https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/ministers/assets/charter-letter-fentiman.pdf>

### 4.3 Budget highlights

DESBT was established as a new department of government in December 2017.<sup>25</sup> The following table illustrates the appropriation for DESBT for 2018-19, as compared to the roughly six-month period from its establishment to the end of the 2017-18 financial year.

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Budget 2017-18 \$'000</b>	<b>Est. Actual 2017-18 \$'000</b>	<b>Vote 2018-19 \$'000</b>
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
Departmental services	..	562,167	1,057,196
Equity adjustment	..	1,250	32,568
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	..	<b>563,417</b>	<b>1,089,764</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p 10.

The relative departmental services expenses budgeted for each of the three DESBT service areas of Employment, Small Business Services, and Training and Skills in 2018-19, are illustrated in the table below.

<b>Department of Employment, Small Business and Training Expenses*</b>	<b>Budget 2017-18** \$'000</b>	<b>Est. Actual 2017-18** \$'000</b>	<b>Budget 2018-19 \$'000</b>
<i>Employment</i>	8,210	50,285	93,878
<i>Small Business Services</i>	17,702	9,867	26,802
<i>Training and Skills</i>	584,942	509,293	954,168

\*Note: Expenses include planned expenditure of the departmental services appropriation, appropriation revenue deferred from previous year/s, and other revenue (including from user charges and fees, etc.).

\*\*The departmental expenses for 2017-18 (Budget and Est. Actual) apply only to the period from the establishment of DESBT on 12 December 2017 through to 30 June 2018.

Source: State Budget 2018-2019, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 11.

While the expenses listed in the table for 2017-18 (Budget and Est. Actual) apply only to the period from the establishment of DESBT,<sup>26</sup> expenses budgeted for 2017-18 for equivalent or similar service areas prior to the machinery-of-government changes provide some insight into historical spending in these areas. As a point of comparison:

- the Economic and Fiscal Coordination Service area within the Queensland Treasury, from which the employment function was transferred to DESBT,<sup>27</sup> budgeted \$46.164 million in expenses for 2017-18<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Public Service Commission, *A summary of changes to departments of government (including Chief Executives): (12 December 2017 – unless otherwise stated)*, Queensland Government, January 2018, <https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/summary-of-mog-changes-12-dec-2017-dans-3-and-4.pdf?v=1515631610>

<sup>26</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 3.

<sup>27</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 3.

<sup>28</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Treasury, p 18.

- the service area of Small Business Services within the former Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games budgeted \$26.039 million in expenses for 2017-18,<sup>29</sup> and
- the Training and Skills service area within the former Department of Education and Training budgeted \$1.054 billion in expenses for 2017-18.<sup>30</sup>

Budgeted expenses for TAFE Queensland in 2018-19 are \$615.356 million.<sup>31</sup> This amount includes expenditure of controlled and administered funds from the DoE appropriation, together with revenue from user fees and charges and other income.<sup>32</sup> With an expected 3.3 per cent (\$20.899 million) reduction in income for TAFE Queensland in 2018-19 (as compared to 2017-18), TAFE Queensland is expected to return an operating deficit of \$11.198 million for the financial year.<sup>33</sup>

In terms of capital expenditure for 2018-19, combined capital purchases for DESBT and TAFE Queensland total \$57.4 million, comprised of:

- \$30 million out of the \$85 million over three years for the Advancing Our Training Infrastructure initiative to redevelop, refurbish and expand key high-need TAFE facilities
- \$17.3 million to renew and grow Queensland's training assets, and
- \$9.9 million in property, plant and equipment for TAFE Queensland.<sup>34</sup>

#### **4.3.1 Portfolio area highlights – Employment and Small Business portfolio area**

The combined 2018-19 expenses budgeted for the two DESBT service areas of Employment and Small Business Services total approximately \$120.680 million.

Budget highlights for the Employment service area in 2018-19 include:

- continuing to deliver the Back to Work initiative, which is designed to give Queensland employers the confidence to hire eligible unemployed job-seekers, including
  - providing funding of \$20.5 million over three years from 2018-19 to continue the program in areas of South East Queensland with labour market challenges, and
  - providing increased funding of \$155 million over four years to extend the program in regional areas
- continuing to support employment opportunities for mature aged job-seekers, including through the appointment of an ambassador for mature aged workers
- continuing to deliver the \$5 million North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme to upskill and reskill workers and support their transition to new employment opportunities
- continuing to deliver the \$900,000 Sticking Together Pilot aimed at supporting young people to find and retain employment, and
- continuing to provide policy oversight to Queensland nominated business and/or skilled migration visas, in partnership with Business and Skilled Migration Queensland.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>29</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games 2017-18, p 9.

<sup>30</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training 2017-18, p 16.

<sup>31</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 31.

<sup>32</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 31.

<sup>33</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 31.

<sup>34</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Capital Statement 2018-19, pp 53-54.

<sup>35</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, pp 2, 3.

Service area budget highlights for Small Business Services in 2018-19 include:

- building Queensland's small businesses through the \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-20 by providing advocacy to champion the interests of small businesses and seeking to make it easier to do business through simplified and coordinated service delivery and improved access to small business services
- continuing to enhance online service delivery through Business Queensland online, by working with state and Commonwealth to improve the quality and accessibility of information and online services
- providing \$1.1 million over four years from 2018-19 to establish small business consultation panels to provide government departments with access to small business owners and operators to inform policy and legislation
- providing \$1 million in 2018-19 to deliver targeted support and specialist business advice and mentoring to Queenslanders who want to create their own future job
- supporting new and existing businesses to grow and employ through the delivery of three targeted grants programs – the Small Business Digital Grants Program; Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program; and Business Growth Fund, and
- supporting the Small Business Champion, the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council and the Better Regulation Taskforce to advocate for the interests of small business across all levels of governments.<sup>36</sup>

Within DES, identified highlights for the National Parks service area include:

- investigating options for the management of Moreton Island (Mulgumpin) protected areas with the Quandamooka people, and
- implementing joint management arrangements in the North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) area, including Naree Budjong Djara National Park.<sup>37</sup>

#### **4.3.2 Issues raised at the public hearing – Employment and Small Business portfolio area**

Issues raised by the committee in relation to the Employment and Small Business portfolio area included:

- funding for the Back to Work scheme and the criteria used to identify the areas for inclusion in the scheme in South East Queensland and regional areas
- the services provided by the Back to Work scheme, including the Women Behind the Wheel program and Back to Work Youth Boost Payment
- the number of Back to Work scheme applications and alleged fraud cases in relation to the scheme
- support for social enterprises such as the Community Living Association in the Nudgee electorate and the Hope Street Café in West End
- the government's small business budget paper and the response from industry stakeholders
- the results of the Sensis Business Index and small-to-medium business confidence in Queensland
- funding for small businesses under the Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program and the Business Growth Fund
- the quantitative key performance indicators for the Better Regulation Taskforce for 2018

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<sup>36</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 5.

<sup>37</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DES, p 12.

- the impact of the five new state government taxes on small businesses, being the land tax, the additional foreign acquirer duty, the luxury vehicle duty, the point-of-consumption tax, and the waste tax
- a delay in delegating a right to information function for DESBT
- the government's \$5 million in funding for the six-month Mature Aged Worker Boost and other support for mature age job seekers
- feedback from the Sticking Together Project pilot, and
- the government's progress in securing alternative employment for North Stradbroke Island sand mining workers and the implementation of the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme.

#### **4.3.3 Portfolio area highlights – Training and Skills Development portfolio area**

Within the planned \$954.168 million in departmental services expenses budgeted for the Training and Skills service area in 2018-19, highlights include:

- the implementation of the \$777.9 million 2018-19 investment in training programs and skills initiatives for Queenslanders
- investing \$80 million (\$420 million over six years from 2015-16) to deliver the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to support up to 13,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders (up to 54,000 over the six year commitment) to get into work
- supporting eligible job seekers to gain skills for employment in regional Queensland communities through additional training under the Back to Work Certificate 3 Guarantee Boost
- continuing implementation of \$9 million over four years for the Regional Skills Investment Strategy to align training outcomes for Queenslanders with local employment skills demand
- collaborating with Jobs Queensland to gather strategic industry advice on skills demand and workforce planning
- supporting career pathways through apprenticeships and traineeships, including the establishment of a \$1 million Advancing Apprentices Fund
- providing funding of \$10 million over two years for the Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy to support TAFE Queensland to increase training opportunities in regions and sectors facing economic uncertainty
- embedding a comprehensive and systematic approach to quality through the Queensland Vocational Education and Training Quality Framework
- implementing the \$5 million industry-led National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Training and Skills Support Strategy over three years, and
- continuing to work with Government agencies to allocate at least 10 per cent of total labour hours on eligible projects to be undertaken by apprentices and/or trainees, with a further 10 per cent of total labour hours to be allocated for projects in Indigenous communities.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> State Budget 2018-19, Service Delivery Statements – DESBT, p 7.

#### **4.3.4 Issues raised at the public hearing – Training and Skills Development portfolio area**

Issues raised by the committee in relation to the Training and Skills Development portfolio area included:

- TAFE Queensland's hospitality and travel expenses
- TAFE Queensland's purchased ticket allocation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the cost of the tickets
- the cost to TAFE of student placements
- TAFE Queensland's industry collaborations, including a partnership between Aviation Australia and an aviation college in Saudi Arabia
- improvements to TAFE campuses through the Advancing our Training Infrastructure investment, including at Pimlico in Townsville and at the Cairns campus
- DESBT's provision of one off additional funding to TAFE Queensland for the replacement of educational equipment, furnishings and for investment in teaching and training resources
- the forecast operating loss for TAFE Queensland in the 2018-19 budget, due to limited income growth, including impacts of federal funding cuts
- the results of internal audits initiated by TAFE Queensland
- the provision of TAFE Queensland scholarships through the Advance Queensland – TAFE Queensland Pathways scholarships
- free vocational training for year 12 graduates
- the Vocational Education and Training Investment Plan, and supporting young people living in out-of-home care
- the Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy and TAFE Queensland's work with employees impacted by company closures including at Churchill Abattoir and Baiada Poultry and redundancies at Aurizon's Rockhampton operations
- the quality of training provided for Certificate III and Surface Extraction Operations, and the monitoring of government funded training related to surface extraction
- upskilling the small business workforce and TAFE Queensland's Certificate III in recreational vehicle service and repairs and a Certificate III in recreational vehicle manufacturing
- the Queensland government's position in relation to the national partnership on the federal Skilling Australians Fund
- supporting employers to take on apprentices and trainees through incentive schemes, traineeship programs and payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees
- Jobs Queensland and the Anticipating Future Skills project, including workforce planning in Queensland's regions
- the Advancing our Training Infrastructure Plan, and
- the benefits of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, especially for not-for-profit organisations.

## Statement of Reservation

## Statement of reservation for EESBC Estimates 2018

### Opening:

The 2018/19 Budget is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment.

After three-and-a-half years, Labor's legacy for Queensland is no less than five new taxes, an \$83 billion debt bomb and the worst unemployment in Australia - at the time the budget was handed down.

This is a budget that shows Labor have given up and have no plan for Queensland, just a plan for more taxes and more debt. These five new taxes will rip \$2.2 billion out of our economy. These five new taxes will hit households and businesses in every corner of this State.

After three-and-a-half years in office, Labor has no economic plan for Queensland. To divert attentions from Labor's lack of an economic plan and failure to deliver its promises, Labor continues to attack the LNP Government, unable to defend their own record.

Disappointingly, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee hearings lacked openness and transparency with Labor's creative use of the standing orders serving to protect Ministers.

### **Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations**

#### Education

After having three media positions in one day, the Minister for Education refused to guarantee that the Queensland Council of Unions ("the QCU") union indoctrination program dubbed the – Youth Workers Hub would not be found in any Queensland school.

This, despite the fact that the QCU have publicly said they wanted to use the program to encourage young people to join the union. Proposed subjects include political activism which would involve snap rallies, protests and other ways to draw the public attention.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Minister, within the space of one day, you have had three different positions on this program. Will you finally guarantee to the people and students of Queensland and this committee that this program will never ever be found in Queensland schools and that you do not support any form of bullying in the school environment?

**Ms GRACE:** No.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You will not guarantee it?

**Ms GRACE:** No.

It is outrageous and this type of union politicking has no place in our schools and it seems that the Palaszczuk Labor Government puts the interest of union mates ahead of the education of our kids.

In relation to the site for the new Inner City South Secondary College, the Minister re-announced the preferred location would be at Dutton Park, despite the Deputy



Premier making that same announcement in February this year:

**Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
The Honourable Jackie Trad**

**Saturday, February 10, 2018**

**Preferred location identified for new inner-south high school**

The Dutton Park Ecosciences precinct has been identified as the preferred precinct for the first new high school to be built in Brisbane's inner-south for more than 50 years.

*Source: Government media statements*

The consultation process for the site was a complete sham and a waste of time – given that the preferred location was announced almost six months ago. It was also confirmed that the State didn't own all of the land in the Dutton Park precinct that was the preferred location, nor could they outline the total cost. The business case was put to government in early 2017 – which is extraordinary given that the site hadn't even been selected. Concerns were also raised about fraudulent enrolment issues at Brisbane State High School and the LNP contends that the proposed new school at Dutton Park won't alleviate the short or medium term overcrowding issues at Brisbane State High School.

The proposed new site at Dutton Park could force the re-location of the local police station and an Autism Hub, although once again there was no firm details provided when the Department was questioned.

The LNP remains concerned about the future of Independent Public Schools. It was revealed through a Right-To-Information application that the Minister received correspondence from the Queensland Teachers Union (QTU) on 29 January 2018, just five days after a meeting was held. The letter advocated for the full termination of Independent Public Schools in Queensland and less than one month after that letter was received, a secret review was established and not made public until April. For the second year in a row, there was a prep enrolment bungle under the Palaszczuk Labor Government. This time, four students were enrolled to undertake prep in 2018 when they were not old enough under the legislation. It is understood that at least two of these students completed the whole of the first semester. This follows on from five students who were enrolled in prep in 2017 when they shouldn't have been.

We hope that there is not a case of third year running on this issue. We also asked what steps are going to be put in place to ensure that, when these children transition back into prep next year, they are not going to be disadvantaged.

The Director-General confirmed that there is no funding in the budget for the air-conditioning of every state school classroom in Queensland –

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I have a question of the director-general. The Queensland Teachers' Union, P&Cs Queensland and the LNP have called on the state government to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland. Can you advise the committee how much money has the department set aside to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland?

**Dr Cook:** I am not aware of that government decision. I am sorry, is there a government decision that you are referring to about air-conditioning every classroom?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am confirming, is there anything in the budget papers that puts money into air-conditioning every state school? Aside from the Cooler Schools program, is there any money in the budget to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland?

**Dr Cook:** As I said, I was not aware that that was a government decision. I am just asking: is there a government decision that you are referring to in relation to that?

Only the LNP will air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland.

### Industrial Relations

The LNP tabled an RTI which detailed issues about bullying and intimidation of work health and safety inspectors by trade union officials.

Despite the Department acknowledging that there had been complaints from department staff, there was no record provided about the number of complaints although it was mentioned that the issue had been 'an ongoing issue for us for many years'.

The Minister then refused to take the question on notice, as outlined in the transcript:

**Mr BLEIJIE:** This is the question, asked for the third time: in the last year how many complaints have been received from staff in the inspectorate in relation to claims of bullying or intimidation from trade union officials with staff in your department? It is pretty straightforward.

**CHAIR:** No commentary, thank you. Minister?

**Ms GRACE:** No, I do not know whether he is talking formal, written, whatever. I believe that that is a workload that—

**CHAIR:** Member for Kawana, for the purposes of clarification, is it all complaints?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Any complaints.

**Ms GRACE:** The deputy director-general responded to this, in as much as they are working through this now and they are putting a process in place. No, I will not take that on notice.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will move on, but I note for the record that the minister will refuse. These are her staff in the public service.

**CHAIR:** Member for Kawana, she is—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You are protecting the unions ahead of your staff.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

We cannot believe that the Minister for Industrial Relations seems to have chosen the interest of union thugs ahead of her Departmental Staff responsible for workplace health and safety.

Scrutiny was further avoided when questions were blocked about how many recommendations from the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption had been implemented by the Palaszczuk Labor Government, despite the fact that page 10 of the SDS relates to participation in the national workplace relations system.

The SDS also showed the Labor were significantly failing its NAPLAN targets, in fact it did not meet one of the 24 specific targets for 2017/18 for indigenous and non-indigenous students in Queensland.

The worst result was for year 9 indigenous students writing task, where only 45.7% achieved the national minimum standard. Hardly a glowing endorsement of a government that claims to support the National Closing the Gap strategy.

### **Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development**

The morning of the estimates hearing the media exposed revelations that the Minister had broken newly implemented private email guidelines. Revelations of the Minister's use of a private email account for official purposes were extremely concerning, particularly after the Labor Palaszczuk Government had been embroiled in a corruption scandal following the investigation of another senior Minister's private email use. Even more disturbing was the Minister's dismissal of the issue during the hearing of her private email use, outlined in the below transcript excerpt:

*Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question, and I want to make it very clear to the committee that I do not use my personal email for work purposes. As reported in the Australian today, I inadvertently used the wrong email account to email my staff. I made a mistake. I do not know anyone who has not hit 'reply all' accidentally when using email...*

During the hearing, the Committee was subjected to the Minister's repeated claim of her 'inadvertent' use of the wrong email account. The fact that the private emails released under the right to information request included a direct statement from the Minister acknowledging her use of her private account due to sending a specific electronic file type was left unmentioned and undermined her version of events.

Also uncovered, was the extent to which the Minister is willing to go to avoid public scrutiny and to maintain a cloak of secrecy around her department. During questioning, the Committee heard that from the creation of her department on 12 December until over half a year later, on 19 July 2018, the Minister had not signed the delegation granting authority to handle right to information applications. Without the signed delegation of authority, the Minister and department were effectively not subject to the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

The Minister's admission that it took from 12 December 2017 to 19 July 2018 to establish the necessary protocols under the *Right to Information Act 1997*, is a damning indictment on the Palaszczuk Labor Government's commitment to transparency. Right to information requests lodged during this half a year period could not be processed due to the roadblock the Minister had established from not approving the necessary authority.

We are concerned that the Minister may have no regard for her charter letter which requests she demonstrate transparent, accountable and ethical behaviour. Her actions under her current portfolio appear to be a direct continuation of her performance as Child Safety Minister and suggests why she was demoted from that portfolio.

## Employment

The Minister's opaque policy decision making framework was made evident as the Director-General was questioned on the Government's funding criteria for its flagship Back to Work program. As the below transcript excerpt outlines, no clear explanation could be provided as to why the program had been cut from certain regions which had unacceptably high youth unemployment rates:

*Ms SIMPSON: Could the government actually outline that criteria and how exactly you have determined that criteria between the areas that have been included and those that have been excluded?*

*CHAIR: Can you clarify 'could the government'? Do you mean the DG?*

*Ms SIMPSON: Sorry, the director-general. Could you provide clear detail as to how that criteria has been applied in choosing which areas are in and which areas are out?*

*Ms Curtis: That was a decision of the government. That is not something I can comment on.*

*CHAIR: Would you like to direct that to the minister?*

*Ms SIMPSON: I will ask another question of the director-general. How is it that Back to Work SEQ is maintained for the region of Ipswich, which has a lower youth unemployment rate, yet the program is cut for the Sunshine Coast, which currently has a youth unemployment rate of 14.3 per cent?*

*Ms Curtis: As I flagged earlier, the continuation of the SEQ program in the specified areas was a result of those significant labour market challenges within the area. As you mentioned, the Sunshine Coast has an unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent, which is below the state average and—*

*Ms SIMPSON: I actually said that youth unemployment is 14.3 per cent.*

*Ms Curtis: Youth unemployment? I beg your pardon. I referred to unemployment. The decisions regarding the South-East Queensland program were in relation to those factors that were considered the labour market challenges for those regions.*

When questioned directly, the Minister refused to release the criteria for the Government's program funding decision. The following transcript excerpt outlines the Minister's reluctance to provide any accountable framework from which Labor's funding decisions are made. Providing no detail as to the weighting of factors that contribute to the Back to Work program's funding criteria, shows at best, Labor is not making developing evidence-based policy and, at worst, is making employment program funding decisions based purely upon a political agenda.

*Ms SIMPSON: Will you provide the weighting of factors so that those criteria and how they are applied is transparent?*

*Ms FENTIMAN: No. That is the modelling that was undertaken and we have been very transparent around the factors that were considered in making that decision.*

*Ms SIMPSON: Without seeing the weighting of factors, the criteria are not transparent. I ask again: will you please give a commitment for transparency and release the weighting of those factors that have been used in you choosing some areas to receive additional funding and other areas not?*

*Ms FENTIMAN: No. I have answered your question about modelling and what factors were taken into account, as has the director-general.*

Furthermore, the Committee learnt that another set of fraudulent Back to Work claims amounting to more than \$1 million of taxpayer funds had been uncovered. When questioned, the Director-General was unable to clearly answer how many other suspect instances are currently being investigated by the department.

### Small Business

Irrespective of Queensland being ranked the least popular state in Australia among small to medium sized businesses in the Sensis Business Index, the Director-General was unable to provide a single quantitative key performance indicator (KPI) of the Better Regulation Taskforce. This revelation was particularly concerning to LNP Committee members, as one of the leading criticisms from survey respondents was the excessive bureaucracy in Queensland.

The Director-General was only able to provide an unclear commitment to implement a response from a report in 2016 and undertake a review into digital disruption. With vague and non-committal performance measures from the Government's key small business regulatory taskforce, it is unsurprising that the state's excessive bureaucracy was a leading criticism contributing to Queensland being ranked last. As the committee heard time and time again from programs under this Minister's responsibility, taxpayer money was being spent yet again with no key performance measures providing little accountability.

Subsequent to the revelations that no quantitative performance measures are in place to improve Queensland's regulatory burden, the Committee then heard no action was being undertaken by the Government with respect to other leading criticism from small and medium sized businesses – union influence. The transcript excerpt below clearly demonstrates the unwillingness of this Labor government to listen and act upon the concerns from Queensland's small and medium size business community:

*Ms SIMPSON: Thank you very much. Minister, I refer to page 2 of the SDS and the Better Regulation Taskforce highlight. The other leading criticism from small and medium sized businesses that contributed to the Queensland Labor government being the least popular in Australia was union influence. Will you introduce a similar task force to address the ever-increasing union stranglehold over this government?*

*Ms FENTIMAN: No.*

## Training and Skills Development

Questions relating to TAFE Queensland revealed an institution that has become less focused on its core purpose to train and skill Queenslanders. As Queenslanders know, TAFE does exceptional work throughout the organisation's multiple campuses. However, under this Labor government accountability for spending taxpayer money has slipped and completion rate performance has reduced.

The Committee learnt that while completion rates for apprenticeships, traineeships and school-based apprenticeships had all fallen since 2014-15, TAFE's Hospitality Expenses had doubled.

In a troubling admission from the TAFE CEO it was uncovered that TAFE Queensland had wasted \$230,000 in taxpayer money on tickets to the Commonwealth Games. After the Palaszczuk Labor Government had ruled out free tickets, it is astonishing that taxpayers picked up the bill for 2,148 tickets for TAFE Queensland. During the hearing it was made clear that the Palaszczuk Labor Government continue to put themselves first and the taxpayer last.

Unfortunately Labor's misguided TAFE priorities didn't fall short at hospitality expenses and Commonwealth Games tickets. The Committee was also informed of the fact that TAFE had spent over \$2 million on overseas travel over the past reportable three years with an increase annual spend by up to 40% since the 2014-15 year.

Instead of fixing the Labor induced training crisis, under the watch of the Minister for Training and Skills Development, TAFE's priorities are shockingly misguided. TAFE needs to be refocused in skilling and training Queenslanders not wining, dining and flying.

## Closing:

Instead of a plan for the future Labor continues with the politics of the past.

Unlike Labor, the Liberal National Party does have a plan for Queensland. Our plan is designed to make it easier for Queenslanders to get a job and get ahead.

The LNP economic plan lays out five goals and how the LNP would deliver each of them.

The LNP plan will:

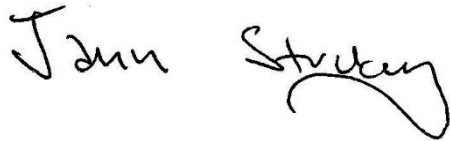
- Bust congestion
- Provide cheaper electricity
- Ensure better health and education
- Deliver water security
- Guarantee no new taxes

The LNP's Economic Plan outlines what we would do right now and what we plan to do from 2020.

It is the beginning, not the end, of our commitment to Queensland.

Because we want Queenslanders everywhere to have good jobs and great opportunities.

Only the LNP has a plan will get this State moving again and ensure Queensland's best days are ahead of us.

Handwritten signature of Jann Stuckey in black ink.

Deputy Chair  
Jann Stuckey MP

Handwritten signature of Simone Wilson in black ink.

Committee member  
Simone Wilson MP