

Ms L.M. Harvey; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mr Paul Papalia; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr John McGrath;
Mr Matthew Hughes; Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Chair

Division 27: Training and Workforce Development, \$430 638 000 —

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Mr P. Papalia, Minister for Tourism representing the Minister for Education and Training.

Ms A. Driscoll, Director General.

Ms G. Husk, Director, Finance.

Ms K. Ho, Executive Director, Policy, Planning and Innovation.

Mr R. Brown, Executive Director, Service Resource Management.

Mr G. Thompson, Executive Director, Corporate.

Mr P. Wyles, Director, Service Delivery Strategy.

Ms M. Stanley, Director, Training Regulation.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: Member for Scarborough, you have the call.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: My first question relates to new works on page 401. At paragraph 3.2, there is reference to some upgrades for heavy haulage driver training at the South Regional TAFE Collie campus. I just want to know whether the department has identified any skill shortages that are specific to the south west area of the state, including the areas of Vasse, Collie and Bunbury. Is there any detail the minister could provide us with on that?

Mr P. PAPALIA: The work that is being done at the TAFE in developing this heavy haulage driving operations skill set course looks at the entire state. It addresses the requirements across the entire state. Collie is a great location for establishing that training. Clearly, there are benefits for the community as it transitions from coal into the future, creating jobs and opportunities around the training centre, but it is not isolated to any one region—both the demand and the requirement.

[8.50 pm]

Ms L.M. HARVEY: With regard to heavy haulage driver training, can the minister advise me how many students are expected to go through the program, and the length of the course?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Its length I can tell the member immediately: it is a five-week heavy haulage driving operation skill set course. There will be between 12 and 15 trainees per course and the initial course is starting this month. I imagine that once the TAFE conducts one and gets a sense of how appropriate the numbers it is training are, it might adjust that, but it is pretty incredible to see that happening so rapidly—a new initiative.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: The department is very good at that.

Mr P. PAPALIA: They are!

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: My question refers to page 389, under the heading, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”. I notice—and it is, indeed, the experience in the electorate—that a number of course fees at my local Thornlie TAFE have been significantly reduced. I ask the minister to provide an update on how training numbers in those fee-reduced courses have been tracking since last year.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Definitely. The member is right. Everywhere, the reduction in course fees attracted attention and got people interested again. The McGowan government has cut fees by up to 70 per cent across 73 high-priority courses, and some of them are offered at the Thornlie TAFE campus, in the member’s electorate. Because fees went up by as much as 500 per cent before for some courses, we know there was a massive reduction in enrolments, so it is interesting to see that people are getting interested again now that there is a much more attractive fee regime.

In October 2019, a \$53.5 million package was announced, which halved the fees for 34 high-priority qualifications from 1 January this year. Since 1 January, there have been more than 28 400 enrolments in these courses. Of those, WA TAFE reported around 17 000 enrolments, which is up 22.5 per cent on last year.

In July this year, a second \$57 million package was announced as part of the WA recovery from COVID plan. This funding supported a further 39 qualifications under the lower fees, local skills program, bringing the total number of qualifications with reduced fees to 73. Some of the courses with reduced fees offered at the member’s local Thornlie TAFE campus are: certificate IV in business, with fees reduced by 67 per cent; certificate II in construction, reduced by 67 per cent; certificate III in painting and decorating, or decoration, reduced by 50 per cent; diploma of project management, reduced by 72 per cent; and diploma of early childhood education and care, reduced from \$10 075 to \$2 400, or by 72 per cent.

Since the introduction of the second tranche of lower fees, local skills courses, TAFEs have reported around 3 200 additional enrolments since the start of July. Around one-third of enrolments have been by students living in

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the regions—Peter Rundle will be applauding! Forty-one per cent of students are female. I have one other additional stat: the courses have been even more popular with younger students, with 60.7 per cent of all enrolments undertaken by students aged 24 years or under.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: Is it possible to get commencement information for a couple of the different trade areas from the department? I have trades in occupations in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations group. I do not know when the latest available data is; I am assuming probably March 2020.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Which group is the member after?

Ms L.M. HARVEY: There is a group of trades commencements around apprentices. There is a grouping of them called the ANZSCO group. I do not know whether that is still the national acronym. Is it?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: I am interested in commencements for apprentices in engineering and construction trades. Can we get that data for the last three years? I think the agency would have that.

Mr P. PAPALIA: We do not have that here. The member might have to put that one on notice. I can give the member some indicative numbers. If we look at apprenticeship commencements, we see that they have increased steadily since 2017. Noting that we just went through a pandemic, or still are in a pandemic, the significant impact of that occurred in the second quarter of this year, and we dropped by only two per cent in the 12 months to June 2020, which is incredible. New entrant traineeship commencements actually increased in 2019, by 714 more places than in 2018. Again, there was a fall in 2020 as a result of COVID, but the numbers that the member is asking —

Ms L.M. HARVEY: Which apprentice numbers increased?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Apprenticeship commencements? That was a global one, I think—total.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: Okay. I was specifically looking for the trades, engineering —

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, as I said, we do not have that. The member would have to put it on notice.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: I can probably find it through a national reporting agency, I would expect, if the minister does not have it with him today.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Possibly, I do not know.

Ms L.M. HARVEY: I refer to page 229 of budget paper No 3. Under the heading “Training and Workforce Development”, the line “Tuition Fees — Vocational Education and Training Courses” has some values there under “General Subsidy”, “Concession Card Holders” and “Severe Financial Hardship”. I am seeking some clarification from the agency. It looks to be that general subsidies are averaging \$4 525 per person; concession card holders, \$769 per person; and severe financial hardship comes in at an average of \$1 471 per person, which does not seem consistent with the value one would expect regarding the subsidy. I am just seeking some clarification on the actual recipient numbers there, and whether there may be a doubling up of the general subsidy in some of the concessions.

[9.00 pm]

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, unless they are eligible for a number of them, or more than one of them.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is right.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am not sure about the detail that the member is requesting and/or whether her hypothesis around individual allocations is accurate; I do not know. I do not know that the advisers can tell me right now. What is the actual question?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Obviously I will need to seek further clarification, perhaps by writing to the minister. No-one has the answer here.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes. That might be a better way of doing it, because I am not sure how the member would couch that as a supplementary question.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am interested to know whether the number of recipients for each of these subsidy category areas has been revised down from the expectation from last year. My understanding of these concessions is that they normally hover around 60 000 recipients for the general subsidy, and usually around 15 000 to 16 000 for the other two concessions. I am just interested to know whether, over the last financial year, we have actually seen a reduction in the number of individuals seeking these concessions and subsidies.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Because of the reduction in costs.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is actually less the value and more the numbers of applicants that I am interested in.

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Mr P. PAPALIA: It is not directly comparable. Given our previous experience of the subsidy uptake in any one of those categories, and noting that there has been a significant change in fee levels, we are anticipating elevated enrolments, and that has been demonstrated. The indications are that that is going to happen because of what we have witnessed, even in the midst of a pandemic. Such a small reduction in enrolments in some of those categories of training to the middle of the year would suggest that there is going to be a much greater uptake. I think the best thing to do with regard to the member's question is to write to the minister and ask for clarification.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: My understanding was that last year's budget estimate was for a higher number of recipients applying for subsidies, so I am trying to ascertain whether that has dropped off and whether there might be a reason for that. I am going to have to write to the minister, clearly. I will do that.

The CHAIR: I do not think the member can assist with that. Member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 392, under the heading "Services and Key Efficiency Indicators", service 1, "VET Workforce Planning and Policy Development". My question really relates to the department's strategies for improving the quality of our TAFE lecturers and encouraging industry-trained practitioners into TAFE. I refer also to the minister's press release of 18 September about a \$57 million investment in training driving demand for an increased skilled workforce. It said that applications were open on 18 September and closed on 5 October. Therefore, my question is: How has the response been? Does the minister have any numbers for applications et cetera?

Mr P. PAPALIA: There has been a very positive response to the recruitment campaign: almost 1 500 applications for more than 900 individual positions. Almost half of all applicants applied to teach in more than one of the 16 industry areas—for example, automotive, business, those sorts of areas—resulting in multiple applications to be assessed for many applicants. There were no industry areas in which no applicants were received, and 75 per cent of applicants wished to be considered for employment with more than one college. Every TAFE college received at least 50 first preferences. Forty-eight per cent of the applicants were female, 51 per cent male and one per cent other.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, where is the other one per cent?

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is one per cent other.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Okay.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Only two per cent—15 applicants—were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, but the department is looking at strategies to build future recruitment of Aboriginal people with other human resources leads.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thanks, minister. Is the department looking to increase salaries to compete with industry?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I think that right now a job is a very attractive proposition, right around the country. Our trainers are well paid, and our policy in government is to make people permanent and ensure that people get all the benefits associated with permanency. There are a lot of positive, attractive things about being in the public sector.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the government exploring avenues for co-contribution from industry for salaries?

Mr P. PAPALIA: The Nationals WA really are high taxing, are they not? It is just like tax and spend.

The CHAIR: We had been going so well, minister!

[9.10 pm]

Mr P. PAPALIA: Tax-and-spend Nationals! There are no free market players in the National Party!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Come on! Fifty more minutes of politeness—we can do it!

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am politely taking the piss!

The CHAIR: It was a Post-it note answer, too!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Have you got your calculator out!

Mr P. PAPALIA: So, we already get contributions towards equipment in kind, which is what one would expect I guess, and it is not many of these sectors. I am informed that there have been some indications of potentially doing something of that nature, but it is being assessed. This is not a simple matter.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: My concern is that sort of competing with the mining sector, with the likes of our mechanics in the south west. We are losing a lot of people to FIFO in the mining sector. Is the minister comfortable that industry is making—obviously, he talked about in-kind support—enough of a contribution to ensure an ongoing workforce at a more local level?

Mr P. PAPALIA: The numbers, as indicated, would suggest that it is an attractive proposition. There were more than 1 500 applications for 900 positions. Tradespeople age, and over time the attractiveness of FIFO diminishes, as does the impact on lifestyle associated with drive in, drive out or remote work, and working in an environment

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where there is no certainty over a long period. People often have to move around from site to site to ensure their employment. The attractiveness of that diminishes over time, particularly as people age; they have families and they become physically less capable, so TAFE or training positions of this description become more attractive, I think, as people age and as they change their phase of life. I think also there is a lot of genuine desire on the part of many tradespeople to convey their knowledge, to contribute to younger people's lives and to foster and mentor people. There is a lot of return out of that. There is a great deal of benefit to people in being able to do that, so it just is an attractive proposition.

I am not sure that there is necessarily evidence that we are losing people; quite the contrary, with respect to the response to the advertised positions. But it is also potentially a different market that the member is talking about. The ones being poached might be poached from other industry players to go and work in the resources sector, for instance, as opposed to manufacturing in Perth or working in construction or something. We are potentially looking at a different demographic.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to page 389, under "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency", and the heading "WA Recovery Plan". Paragraph 2 talks about the financial incentive that has been introduced to encourage employers to re-engage displaced apprentices. I have been asked by a constituent whether there is a requirement for a percentage of apprentices to be employed in respect of companies getting government contracts, or contracts that have any component of government funds. Does the government have any requirement, when companies tender for government projects, for them to have a certain number of apprentices?

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is a consequence of the Western Australian Jobs Act. It is incorporated in the jobs act as an obligation on proponents seeking government contracts in Western Australia that there are threshold levels of apprentices employed.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Can the minister explain that threshold?

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is not my portfolio; I do not think it is even the education minister's portfolio. As an example, the Priority Start policy came into effect in Western Australia on 1 April 2019, replacing the previous Government Building Training Policy. The new policy meets the state government's plan for job commitments to maximise opportunities for apprentices and trainees on all major state government-funded building, construction and maintenance contracts. Priority Start aims to ensure a sustainable construction trades workforce for WA by increasing overall numbers of apprentices and trainees in the building and construction industry. To achieve this, the policy requires companies that are awarded state government building construction, civil construction and maintenance contracts valued at over \$5 million to meet the industry's average target training rate for apprentices and trainees.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: What is the number for a project worth more than \$5 million?

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is the industry's average target training rate for apprentices and trainees, so it depends on which sector it is. For general construction, it is 11.5 per cent; for civil construction, it is five per cent. As a component of this policy, contractor appointing has been reduced to once a year, and there is an expanded range of in-scope qualifications for construction and trades worker occupations.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: So, that is one out of 10 for general construction—one apprentice to 10 tradesmen?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Well, 11.5 per cent is a little higher than that, yes. I make the observation, though, that that is the minimum, and the competitive process for winning government contracts recognises the desire of the government to increase apprenticeships and traineeships, so any proponent seeking to get a government contract is going to be aware of that and seek to maximise —

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The opportunity to win the tender.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, so it will get recognised.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer to page 389. In paragraph 5 there is a reference to international students, which is obviously a problem, given the current world environment. I seek some clarification from the minister about the number of international students who were enrolled in TAFE colleges in 2019, and where that figure sits for 2020.

Mr P. PAPALIA: For 2019, enrolments totalled 2 371 and for 2020, it is 2 052.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Is that across all the TAFEs?

[9.20 pm]

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is for the TAFE sector, yes. That is not much of an impact, though, considering that we endured COVID impacts at the start of this year and there has been a reduction of only 320 or so.

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Mrs L.M. HARVEY: There is also reference there to a recovery strategy being developed. When is it expected that the recovery strategy will be finalised, and does the minister have any indication of some of the measures that might be included in that strategy?

Mr P. PAPALIA: There is a range of elements to the strategy, all of which will be subject to the environment we find ourselves in with COVID. I can read out what the elements are, but until such time as international borders are opened and it is viable for international students to return to Australia, a lot of this strategy is not going to be applicable. The plan for when the borders open is to integrate skills and employability pathway courses across WA's TAFE and higher education sectors through packaged offers with universities; to enhance university articulation arrangements for students not on a packaged university pathway; to promote WA university and VET study opportunities to WA international school and TAFE students; and to provide student support and experience activities through the TAFE International Western Australia student network, which offers career and employability sessions, mental health support, friendship and networking, and engagement with local community groups. I can confirm that in my other portfolio, citizenship and multicultural interests, we were actively engaging across government with the team around Study Perth and Training and Workforce Development looking for ways that our local Western Australian culturally and linguistically diverse communities could contribute to this effort. We were engaging with the biggest source of international students in WA, which last time I looked was India, which slightly pipped China. We have large communities from both of those nations, and we were engaged very directly with peak bodies representing those communities. They were enthusiastically embracing the opportunity to help the state through making it a welcoming and positive environment for students from their home nations. More recently, during COVID, both of those communities' peak bodies undertook to assist students who were here already and were not returning to their home countries. They assisted in ensuring that they are having a better experience than they might otherwise have because they were not eligible for any support from the federal government.

Mr M. HUGHES: I refer to page 389. My question is about the support for the training of young people. The minister may feel that he has already substantially covered over this, but I am interested to skip to —

The CHAIR: Member, you mean “covered” rather than “covered over”, do you not?

Mr M. HUGHES: Sorry, covered; yes, I do.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It may have been a Freudian slip!

Mr M. HUGHES: I think that is what I meant. I think I know where I am!

Can the minister tell me what the government is doing to support young people in training, and to address industry priority skills?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Far and away, the biggest contribution has to have been the reduction in TAFE fees. I have probably mentioned a couple of times already that there has been a huge reduction in fees across a range of courses in a couple of different tranches to ensure that young people in particular are in a far better position than a few years ago with regard to training. The amount of \$268 million was injected into WA's training system over the four years from 2018–19 to 2021–22 via the National Partnership on the Skilling Australians Fund, which includes \$110 million from the commonwealth government. This partnership agreement funds growth in apprenticeships, traineeships and pre-apprenticeships to enable young people to transition into jobs after school. WA's employer incentive scheme provides an \$8 500 payment to employers for a four-year apprenticeship and \$2 125 for a 12-month traineeship, with additional loadings for priority groups such as those in regional areas, Aboriginal people, apprentices with a disability, and priority qualifications. There is also a 50 per cent commencement loading for apprentices aged 21 to 30 years to encourage employers to train young people who have reached adult wage rates. More recently, the state recovery package included specific initiatives to help apprentices and trainees who have been displaced by the economic disruption brought about by COVID. We have established a new free, out-of-contract register available on the Jobs and Skills WA website, which helps employers locate and re-employ apprentices and trainees who have been stood down. The sum of \$4.8 million has been allocated for the apprenticeship and traineeship re-engagement incentive, with one-off payments of \$6 000 for hiring an apprentice and \$3 000 for hiring a trainee displaced by the economic disruption brought about by COVID. Over 100 apprentices and trainees have already found jobs with new employers.

Free short courses have been developed in consultation with industry for displaced workers, women and young people to prepare them for immediate and emerging skill requirements as the economy recovers. These free skill sets will provide a launch pad for students to get skills ready for new jobs and provide pathways and credit towards full qualifications. There are courses in hospitality, logistics, cybersecurity, agriculture, civil construction, and small business. These free short courses were made available in July 2020. As at 14 September, TAFE colleges have already reported over 970 enrolments in the job-ready skill sets. In the future, the Labor government has announced the biggest capital works program in history for TAFE campuses across the state as part of the \$5.5 billion WA recovery plan. The McGowan government also commissioned and delivered the urgent review of skills, training and workforce

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development. It identified a range of medium to longer term initiatives to support the training needs of the state's young people and address industry skill priorities. The review's specific recommendations include strategies to increase the number of young people employed on government projects, and options for improving the delivery of vocational education training delivered to secondary schools.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: My question relates to the agreement on the national infection control training fund, which is found below the heading "COVID-19 WA Recovery Plan" under the spending changes on page 388. Can the minister explain to me why that has gone from \$3 million to \$6 million?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Sorry, where is that?

The CHAIR: That is the first line under "COVID-19 WA Recovery Plan".

Mr P. PAPALIA: Okay, up the top.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It is the second line down.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Sorry, what was the member saying?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The amount next to the agreement on the national infection control training fund has gone from \$3 million to \$6 million. What does that entail?

[9.30 pm]

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is actually a really good initiative. It is targeted at short-term skill sets being delivered to support immediate needs of industry to respond to COVID. Understandably, we will need more of that as time goes on, as we move into some environment where COVID is still a threat everywhere. We continue to have the most open economy in the country. Skill sets that were identified in consultation with industry are offered as low-fee or free courses, including the COVID-19 direct care skill set. The skill sets are essential to operate in a COVID-safe economy and to support economic recovery. Training has been prioritised for workers in the retail, tourism, transport, logistics, hospitality, cleaning, and security service industries, and to increase infection control skill levels in sectors such as aged care and disability care. A \$9 million allocation has been made for the skill sets funding through the state's contribution of \$4.9 million repurposed from general training funds. I think the only reason there is \$3 million and then \$6 million is that we ran out of time in the previous financial year.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister will see a bit further down the page the line item "JobTrainer Fund National Partnership Agreement". Is that basically in the same category? It is about 10 lines down from the previous item I referred to. Is that the same sort of scenario or is that a contribution that has to go to some sort of co-federal-type fund?

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is unrelated to that. The Premier signed the commonwealth heads of agreement for schools reform on 24 July. That outlines the approach to developing a new five-year national funding agreement. It was just the renewal of our funding agreement. It replaced the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. As a consequence of the Premier signing that, we can access \$51.7 million in commonwealth funding under the JobTrainer fund. The WA Treasurer signed the national partnership for the JobTrainer fund at the beginning of September, and WA's plan to implement the JobTrainer fund is to significantly expand the range of courses in the lower fees, local skills initiative and to expand the range of free skill sets to be offered to young people and jobseekers. We access that federal funding and there is a rolling series of agreements.

Mr Y. MUBARAKAI: I refer the minister to the heading, "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" on page 389. I am very pleased to see that a brand-new TAFE campus is being built in Armadale, which will benefit the people of my electorate. Could the minister please provide an update on the project?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, I can, surprisingly enough!

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I am sure you can!

Mr P. PAPALIA: That project is a \$22.6 million investment in the Armadale TAFE campus. The current training delivery in the Armadale area is dispersed across three leased premises located across Armadale that are ageing, overcrowded and outdated. Currently, the Armadale region has a high need for easily accessible vocational training programs to provide pathways into long-term employment for youth and older unemployed seeking retraining. I am sure that that observation would apply to the seat of Jandakot as well.

There are 12 secondary schools in the Armadale area. With future population growth forecast to increase from around 94 000 in 2020 to 151 000 by 2023, it is critical to ensure that there are appropriate facilities and courses to accommodate the growing number of students seeking quality educational training opportunities. As part of the rebuilding our TAFEs program—the biggest investment in TAFE infrastructure in the state's history—a brand-new, state-of-the-art consolidated TAFE campus will be built in the Armadale town centre. It is anticipated that the new

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multistorey campus will provide training in the areas of child care, community services, mental health, business, education support and general education, and specialist areas for logistics, IT, emerging industries and cybersecurity.

The campus will be in a prime location, within walking distance of Armadale train station. We expect the land on which the campus will be located to be transferred from the Department of Communities by the end of 2020. The lead architect has been announced as a local firm and the first designs are expected to be completed in February next year. We expect construction to start by the end of 2021 and to be completed in 2023.

I am told I have to reiterate that, of course, it is part of the biggest TAFE capital works program ever. The sum of \$178.4 million has been allocated across 21 new capital projects to develop new and upgraded contemporary training facilities across the state and address the urgent need to stimulate the WA economy. There are dual outcomes—both of them wonderful.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer the minister to service 4 under “Service Summary” on page 390. For 2018–19, there was an actual of \$7.3 million for apprenticeship and traineeship administration and regulation. The budget estimate was \$18.354 million, although the actual was \$15.170 million. Could the minister explain the fluctuation between the \$18 million and the \$15 million?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I expect it is something to do with fees. It is as a consequence of a bit of a lag in employers claiming the Jobs and Skills WA employer incentive scheme because of COVID-19. The member would have noticed that there was a big uplift between the previous year and 2019–20. There was a significant increase. That was because of the introduction of the Jobs and Skills WA employer incentive scheme. There was then a lag on applications to that scheme in 2019–20 because of COVID. Does the member get what I am saying? At the end of the 2019–20 financial year, or the third quarter of it—I think it was the third quarter—there was COVID, so applications for that scheme diminished. There was a lot of concern. People did not even know whether they were going to have their businesses or not. They were not rushing to take on trainees and apprentices.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Does the minister anticipate a more than twofold recovery for the next financial year?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Absolutely. That is what is projected there, is it? Yes. We are leading the nation in growth in all manner of categories. Of most importance in this regard is employment—jobs. Our big employers of apprentices and trainees are going to be fuelled by massive state government investment over the next couple of years, which will then diminish as a proportion of the overall economic activity in the state as private enterprise lifts and scales up, and takes a greater role. From memory, the Treasurer, in his post-budget address, or even in his budget speech, suggested that growth as a proportion of economic activity of state government spend—I am trying to remember what the first figure was—was 5.5 per cent or something, up to around 13 per cent, or even higher. There is a lot of construction work for the next two years. There is also a lot of manufacturing work associated with projects like Metronet and all the road construction around the state. We anticipate even more growth through private sector investment, which is lifting.

[9.40 pm]

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I just have one more question and then I think we need to go to TAFE for the member for Roe. My question relates to the procurement of training on page 396. I refer to the total cost of service. Is it possible to get a breakdown of the value between the private training providers and the procurement through the TAFE colleges for 2018–19 and 2019–20, and the prediction for 2020–21, please?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am informed that the approximate proportion of places with TAFE was 75 per cent in 2018 and 2019, and we do not know about this year. In 2018 and 2019, approximately 75 per cent of places were with TAFEs.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: And 25 per cent with private providers?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is approximate.

The CHAIR: Member for Roe, do you want to go into TAFE?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. I am ready to go to TAFE.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Okay. We will swap advisers.

The CHAIR: We are dealing with division 27. The question is that the appropriation be recommended.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Is division 27 the next one, as well?

The CHAIR: The other one is an off-budget authority, as I understand it, minister.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Wednesday, 21 October 2020]

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We are dealing with division 27. The question is that the appropriation be recommended.

The appropriation was recommended.