

NORTH METROPOLITAN TAFE — CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [2.04 pm]: I inform the house about a cybersecurity incident that was identified at North Metropolitan TAFE last week. On Monday, 28 August 2017, North Metropolitan TAFE identified a security breach of internal information technology systems with an attacker gaining access to college systems via the remote access service. Information and data known to have been accessed includes staff network account details, encrypted password files, computer names, internet protocol addresses and student network accounts details, including names and some addresses. The number of student network accounts that have been impacted is 13 782.

The accessed student account information did not contain current password and login credentials and there is no evidence that any student financial or banking information was accessed. Upon discovery of the security breach, North Metropolitan TAFE immediately blocked access to the breached college system and the affected network accounts had their passwords reset or disabled.

The incident was reported to WA Police, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Australian Cyber Security Centre. WA Police attended the campus on 31 August and Monday, 4 September, to obtain evidence and initiate an investigation. Representatives from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer were present during the initial visit.

North Metropolitan TAFE was in constant contact with the Department of Training and Workforce Development throughout to ensure that all other TAFE information and communication technology security teams were notified. No other incidents were identified across the TAFE network.

An email has been sent to all affected students notifying them of the breach and providing a contact point at North Metropolitan TAFE for any of their concerns. The incident management procedure response from North Metropolitan TAFE was developed in line with the industry standard information technology infrastructure library. A full internal review of the incident is currently underway and an external information security service has been engaged for advice and post-incident review. This highlights the increasing importance of securing government-held information systems. Digital security is a critically important issue to the McGowan Labor government, which is why in June this year we launched a revised whole-of-government digital security policy for the Western Australian public sector. Implementation of this updated policy is a priority for this government.