

Division 14: Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation — Service 1, International Education, \$153 756 000 —

Mrs L.A. Munday, Chair.

Dr A.D. Buti, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for International Education.

Ms R. Brown, Director General.

Ms K. Ho, Director General, Department of Training and Workforce Development.

Ms G. Husk, Acting Executive Director, Service Delivery.

Mr R. Sansalone, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr A. Blagaich, Executive Director, School Curriculum and Standards.

Ms R. Lee, Executive Director, Strategy and Policy.

Ms J. Kirk, Acting Executive Director, Strategic Policy.

Mr G. Hamley, Chief of Staff, Minister for International Education.

The CHAIR: If we could change any advisers—no? We are all good to go straight up?

Dr A.D. BUTI: We will stay.

The CHAIR: We do not need any introduction; we can just go straight into it?

Dr A.D. BUTI: We can go straight in.

The CHAIR: I call the member for Roe and then the member for Vasse.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 197, line item “International Education”, under “COVID–19 Response”. There was \$13.8 million for 2021–22 and that moves to \$5.09 million in 2022–23. Firstly, how many international students studied in WA in the financial year relating to the \$13.8 million being spent on the COVID response?

Dr A.D. BUTI: As of the week ending 21 March this year, there are approximately 15 573 international students. As of 9 May, there are 16 747 onshore student visa holders in Australia studying. How can that be? That does not make sense. Just wait a minute, thanks.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Further question.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Wait; I am just trying to give the member the correct answer.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Sorry.

Dr A.D. BUTI: There are about 16 747 international students in Western Australia as of 9 May 2022.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Okay; thanks, minister. What has been the average student numbers in WA over the last 10 years?

Dr A.D. BUTI: If the member wants to put that on notice, we will give him an answer.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Okay. I refer to “International Education” and the StudyPerth campaign. What has been spent each year on attraction over the previous three years?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Which line item is the member looking at?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It is part of the “International Education” line and the \$16 million, basically.

Dr A.D. BUTI: For the StudyPerth program, since 2005, we have spent about \$1.3 million per annum. In 2019, the WA government agreed to fund StudyPerth an additional \$1.5 million annually for three years to support the implementation of the strategy. The additional funding was in addition to base funding of the \$1.3 million that has historically been provided on an annual grant. In 2021, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation negotiated a new one-year funding agreement worth \$2.8 million that replaced the government’s existing grants and contract with StudyPerth.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: How many students are forecast to arrive in WA over the next financial year?

Dr A.D. BUTI: We do not have that information.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: On page 198, under “New Initiatives”, we have “International Education” again with the “Building Student Pipeline” and “Industry Support” line items. Has anything been done on housing options for international students?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The government allocated student accommodation subsidies in 2022–23 to the tune of \$3.75 million.

The appropriation was recommended