

Division 25: Training and Workforce Development, \$608 602 000 —

Mr D.A.E. Scaife, Chair.

Ms S.F. McGurk, Minister for Training.

Ms K. Ho, Director General.

Mr G. Thompson, Executive Director, Corporate.

Ms J. Wallace, Executive Director, Policy, Planning and Innovation.

Mr B. Jolly, Executive Director, Service Delivery.

Ms E. Paterson, Executive Director, Service Resource Management.

Ms G. Husk, Director of Finance.

Dr Susan Gallacher, Chief of Staff, Minister for Training.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard and the daily proof will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with those details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 2 June 2023. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

Are there any questions? I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 370 of budget paper No 2, volume 1, under “New Initiatives”, line item “Workforce Support Collie Transition Package”, and the funding of \$10.28 million over the forward estimates. Has a similar package been made available for those transitioning out of the native forestry industry?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I thank the member. The south regional jobs and skills centre provides free career training and employment advice and assistance. These services are accessible in locations throughout the south west, including Bunbury, Manjimup, Collie, Busselton, Harvey, Margaret River and Narrogin, and can be tailored to meet transition planning needs. South Regional TAFE representatives have been visiting and will continue to visit workplaces to speak with workers about training opportunities. This includes current skills assessments, recognition of prior learning skills, gap analysis and skills development planning and activities. During 2022–23, South Regional TAFE and government contracted service providers Jobs South West as well as Albany Worklink to provide transition support to workers and organisations in the south west and great southern regions.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: How many students does the minister expect to come from the forestry industry into the TAFE system?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I am sorry; we do not have those specific figures. We have allocated \$50 million to the Just Transition plan, which has a range of support programs for affected workers and businesses in the south west. As the member is probably aware, that package is to secure sustainable job opportunities before logging ends in January 2024. Those eligible workers can receive a transition payment of up to \$45 000 in the event of redundancy and also \$2 500 for training and skilling support from TAFE colleges and approved training providers. There are job matching services available for workers, with up to \$500 provided to assist workers to prepare a résumé when seeking employment. That scheme is being managed through the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation—another agency—but I am not aware that there is any cap on the number of workers who would be eligible to receive that funding.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I thank the minister for the comprehensive response. The minister said that she is not able to say how many students the department is expecting, but has the department already had a number of enrolments for those services?

The CHAIR: Member for Roe, is there a line item for this?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, this is a continuation of the first question I asked.

The CHAIR: Relating to native forestry retraining?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. It will be my last question.

The CHAIR: Okay; it had better be!

Ms S.F. McGURK: Thank you, chair, and it is a good point, because the answer I gave previously—that the program is actually being administered by another agency—means that I do not have the same sort of detail that I would have for a program that is being administered by the Department of Training and Workforce Development.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I thank the minister; I appreciate the response. I refer to the same page, ongoing initiatives, and the line item “Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy”. What is the training component of this strategy?

Ms S.F. McGURK: A component of the strategy is a work skills program for juveniles in Broome and Kununurra. That program is going to be delivered by North Regional TAFE—again, the Department of Justice is actually accountable for that program’s deliverables and outcomes—but there is an allocation of \$2.7 million to be funded through the Department of Training and Workforce Development for the continuation of the integrated learning program for the years 2023–24 and 2024–25. That program includes basic literacy skills and aims to re-engage participants through learning and pathways to employment and further education.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: We have those two amounts there—\$1.345 million and \$1.372 million—and then it disappears. Can the minister explain why it is not funded any further into the out years?

Ms S.F. McGURK: Yes. It was only ever funded for two years as a pilot. As with any new initiative, it makes sense to roll it out and then assess whether it has been effective. It is the case that the program has been funded for only two years; that does not mean it will not be funded after that, but certainly we like to assess whether a program has been successful and take that opportunity before committing to ongoing funding.

[7.10 pm]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Further to that, will the cessation of this program after 2025 impact on the already crisis-hit Banksia Hill situation?

The CHAIR: I have been clear in previous sessions about entering into policy debates that are not related to the line item. Minister, you can indulge this if you want to, but I will otherwise rule the question out of order.

Ms S.F. McGURK: I would like to make a point about this particular program, which is one of the sorts of investments that the state government is making in the portfolio area of vocational training. These are really practical supports that are being given to people in the regions, but in this instance it is for young people in the regions. Since the inception of the program in late 2020, 124 at-risk young people have participated in it across Broome and Kununurra. They are doing the sorts of programs that will enable them to go on to further study to gain additional skills or just the confidence they need to undertake some sort of work placement which is, of course, what we want.

As part of this year’s budget, we are providing \$1.6 million in funding over two years for an Aboriginal jobseeker support program. There is also the extension of the heavy vehicle driver licence program in the Pilbara and Kimberley. These are all examples of really practical courses that young people can do. I should also say that the driver licence program, which is being run through the Department of Transport and the Minister for Transport, is also being used to give people job-ready skills.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a further question. The minister said that this is being administered by North Regional TAFE. Is it just one campus in particular, or are a couple of campuses involved?

Ms S.F. McGURK: That component of the strategy is across the Kimberley, as I understand it, and is being delivered in Broome and Kununurra. The work skills program I referred to earlier is the program that has had 124 at-risk young people participating in it since 2020. It is being delivered in Broome and Kununurra.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: One final further question. Is there anything like a cert II course or any particular certificate courses being offered or taken up at the moment through this strategy?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I am advised that this falls into the category of young people who either have an offending history or are at risk of having an offending history. Really, we are trying to engage them in some sort of basic work-ready program. That could include basic literacy and numeracy, digital skills and the like, but it could frankly also include some basic life skills for those young people to then be ready to go on and do a cert II or other practical skills training through our skills offerings—Free in ’23 is an example—but also through the Lower Fees, Local Skills program. There are a whole lot of very short taster programs that people can access to get an idea about whether they are interested in a certain area of work. All these sorts of things are available, but to answer the member’s question, it is often prior to some sort of qualification attainment that we really are trying to get people ready for their work placements.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thanks, minister. I will move on to the next question, if I can. I refer to paragraph 1 under the heading “Building a Skilled Workforce” on page 371, which refers to the government continuing to build a skilled workforce. I have employers ringing my office about the lack of trainers and assessors, and numerous cancellations

of training for the apprentices, which is actually putting some of their apprentices back by a year in their training. Does the minister have any comment about the lack of lecturers and assessors?

Ms S.F. McGURK: This has been identified as an issue for us. Unfortunately, the vocational training system, whether through TAFE or private providers, has not been immune to the same sorts of worker and skills shortages as have other industries throughout the state, particularly in regional areas, where we need vocational training people who have technical skills, such as trade skills, and are also able to teach. It can be very difficult in regional areas to retain tradespeople in lecturer positions when they can attract some good money in other industries. This has always been an issue, but it is particularly an issue where there is high demand for skills.

There are a number of strategies, particularly in the Pilbara, Kimberley and Kalgoorlie, as a result of the colleges having identified that they have difficulties attracting and retaining lecturers. There is a \$2.9 million temporary regional incentive program through which eligible lecturers are eligible to receive up to \$15 000 at the Pilbara and Kimberley TAFES, and \$10 000 at Kalgoorlie TAFE, in an effort to provide an incentive for them to stay and do that work. There has been a call to expand the incentive programs to other locations; certainly the unions raised that issue with us, and I think the member for North West Central also raised it with me, perhaps in Parliament during question time, if my memory serves me correctly. A question was asked about Carnarvon, and there was only one vacancy in Carnarvon at the time that this program was put in place and that was, in fact, a new position. It was expected that that would be advertised and filled.

We are trying to be flexible in the ways in which we deal with these issues through the department and sometimes through colleges cooperating to move staff across individual colleges—say, for instance, in South Regional TAFE—to make sure that the delays or interruptions to training are minimised as much as possible.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thanks, minister. I have a further question. At the moment we have 6 500 electrical apprentices in the system when we would normally have about 4 000, so in some ways it is a good thing. There was an example recently in one of the towns in my electorate in which there was a good-quality apprentice who seemed to have a contract with a private registered training organisation at one stage, but now there is no ability to find a lecturer to actually continue in the system. It is pretty frustrating for the employer as well, and it is an example that I might talk to the director general about down the track. It is exactly as the minister said; we have tradespeople who are in high demand and are highly paid. The challenge is that if they want to come into the system as a lecturer, they may not have the skills. I am just worried that we do not have a lecturer skillset out there. The minister has talked about the incentives. Are there any other incentives in the metro area to improve the base of lecturers and assessors?

[7.20 pm]

Ms S.F. McGURK: The director general was just pointing out the incentives and approaches that all the TAFE colleges have to attract and retain people with the vocational and technical skills and also to train them on the other side of those skills that they are required to have in order to deliver training. They are required to have certain qualifications in training and assessment to lecture or train in TAFE, although in some areas it could be that we might be able to partner with industry to have access to some of their staff to sit alongside the TAFE staff to meet both the teaching and technical requirements. It might be that we are thinking about some of those alternatives to deal with these issues. It is the case across regional areas but, frankly, it is particularly bad in the Pilbara, parts of the goldfields and other smaller areas. The challenges of those areas are probably what the member is talking about.

I know that when this was experienced in Albany, the college made an effort to make sure that students were transported from Albany to Bunbury, given opportunities to train there and perhaps accommodation. A lot of effort was put in to make sure that the training of those students was not interrupted so that they could get on and finish within the allocated time.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I guess some feedback that I have is about the substantial amount of paperwork that lecturers and assessors have to work through in the TAFE system. Has any thought been given to simplifying that effort, especially given that we are coming from a base of tradespeople becoming lecturers et cetera?

The CHAIR: We are a long way from the budget papers here.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Thank you. I will take the question, but that is a fair reminder, chair. We have regulatory requirements to ensure that we maintain a quality training system. While some people see that as a regulatory burden, it is, in fact, part of the reason we have such high quality outcomes in our vocational system. Many of those standards apply across other states and jurisdictions. We are no more or less regulated in that respect than any other state. We have to make sure that when trying to simplify some of those requirements, it is not done at the expense of the quality of outcomes. It is always the case that the Training Accreditation Council carries out reviews to ensure that the requirements for quality teaching standards are met and people gain those qualifications.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to the line item “New Works” on page 382. Apart from the program mentioned under the heading “Expanded Heavy Vehicle Driver Training Program”, are any new works envisaged for the department over the next three financial years?

Ms S.F. McGURK: A number of programs are being offered as part of our 2023–24 budget. These include meeting our election commitments—I could talk across a number of different initiatives we are undertaking there—and a significant asset investment program of \$243.3 million to improve infrastructure and equipment across TAFE colleges throughout the state. Similarly, we are in the process of negotiating a new National Skills Agreement with the federal government. A reform agenda is built into that national agreement that picks up on a number of existing programs and refines them. It is not the case that there is only one area of new infrastructure and delivery works; these are simply the new works required under the vehicle driver training program—the program I referred to before—which was expanded up to the Kimberley and Pilbara. Part of that program is to invest in some dual cab driver-controlled trucks, I think, for the locations. It is certainly not the case that only one new piece of work is being done; a massive investment program is happening across the state.

Sorry, I should probably read the notes in front of me. It would probably make the lives of my advisers a bit easier. I would also like to point out that the state is investing up to \$15.3 million a year on remedial works programs and other capital projects across the forward estimates. That is outlined throughout the asset investment program information and the grants and subsidies income statement in the budget papers.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I might just move on to page 380, subparagraph 3.8, which relates to the \$18.1 million investment for a new replacement campus at South Regional TAFE Esperance. How is the campus going? Can the minister give me a bit of a rundown on how many courses, lecturers and students are at that particular campus?

The CHAIR: Sorry, member, can I just clarify the question? Your initial question seems to be about how the facility itself is taking shape, then there was a second, third and fourth question about the number of students. Can we just break it up for the minister’s benefit?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the building side of the replacement South Regional TAFE Esperance campus totally completed?

Ms S.F. McGURK: Yes, it is, member.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the minister able to supply the details of the number of courses, lecturers and students at that particular campus?

Ms S.F. McGURK: Across one site? Does the member want to know what courses are available?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, what courses are being used at the moment at that campus?

Ms S.F. McGURK: We do not have them with us. I do not mind providing that as supplementary information, chair.

The CHAIR: Just to clarify, the minister is agreeing to provide the courses that are being utilised at the Esperance campus and the number of students and lecturers at that campus, as at today’s date.

[Supplementary Information No B6.]

[7.30 pm]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Further to that, what has happened with the previous buildings on the Esperance campus that were mixed in with the Esperance Senior High School buildings? Have they all been passed back to the Department of Education? Is there an update on that?

Ms S.F. McGURK: The member did not have a line item to refer to for the new works in Esperance and I do not think it is unreasonable that I say that I do not have all of the detail here in front of me. The member has quite a few opportunities to ask those questions, either through contacting my office and asking for that information, which he can do any time, or by putting that information on notice through Parliament. It is factual information. I have come bearing many thick files but I do not have that detail with me.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That is fine. I will move on to another question. I return to completed works on page 380, paragraph 3.2. How is the \$150 000 grain harvest simulator and associated software at the Muresk Institute in Northam going? I am sure the member for Central Wheatbelt is interested in that. Was that in operation for the previous harvest or will it be for the upcoming harvest?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I was reading about the Muresk upgrades because I visited some of those upgrades this time last year after the last state budget and saw the new shearing shed there.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That was my next question, so the minister can cover both if she likes.

Ms S.F. McGURK: I was struck by the fact that one of the training courses being delivered included crutching workshops—but there you go.

Could the member remind me what part of the facility he was asking about?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I was asking whether it was completed according to the budget papers. Was it in practice for the harvest just gone in December 2022, or will it be used in the forthcoming harvest in November–December 2023?

Ms S.F. McGURK: The first stage of the shearing shed I was referring to commenced for use in August last year. The Muresk livestock operation industry research partnerships and course delivery —

The CHAIR: Can I just clarify —

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I was talking about the grain simulator, but I will be moving on to the shearing shed.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Sorry, I will hand over to Ms Paterson to answer that question.

Ms E. Paterson: The grain simulator was put in place this year to use in the future; it has not been used in the past. As the member mentioned, there is another area of training facilities—classrooms, shearing sheds and workshops. They have all been implemented at Muresk as well. The final area for completion are the workshops and they are due to be completed in the next week or two.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a further question on the shearing shed. Has there been an increased number of enrolments due to that piece of infrastructure?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I am advised that last year in September, after the refurbished and new shearing shed was opened, year 9 students from Northam Senior High School were invited to witness shearing through a snapshot career taster. The success of that event resulted in further and ongoing school requests to engage and experience other agricultural activities. I do not have the specific enrolment numbers for that college here with me, sorry.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 381, paragraph 5.3.2. What will the \$3.2 million Midland wind turbine training centre provide when it is completed?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I am advised that this facility is being funded by the federal government. As the name implies, it is designed to help skill people particularly in the maintenance, but also manufacture and construction, of wind turbines. As the item implies, it is part of a total package for the TAFE technology fund that has been available across three different projects.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Considering the proliferation of wind farms and the like, is this the main training centre in WA for mechanics who will specialise in that field?

Ms S.F. McGURK: The project plans for that and the other projects listed there that are being funded by the commonwealth government are currently under development. I do not envisage that this will be the only centre for skilling up workers for clean energy requirements, whether it is in relation to wind turbines, electric vehicles or solar panels et cetera. A range of work needs to be done to gear up the WA workforce for clean energy requirements that are coming at us very quickly. We are aware of that. The federal government is aware of that. We are currently working on a mapping of the existing courses that are available for workers and also the next stage of our development to ensure that we have the workforce across the state that will be required for emerging industries in clean energy.

[7.40 pm]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a new question on that same page—381. Paragraph 4.12 states —

\$22.2 million for a new Trades Workshop at South Regional TAFE’s Albany campus ...

Can the minister give me an update on how that is progressing and when she expects it to be completed and up and running?

Ms S.F. McGURK: I can. I have visited that particular campus. It has had a \$22.2 million upgrade. It is an example of the large number of capital and equipment upgrades that our government is funding. The workshop will replace 50-year-old outdated workshops. The trade training will focus on metals and engineering, light and heavy automotive, plumbing and electrical. When I visited that site, it was particularly exciting to hear that a local business, H+H Architects, had been appointed to design the project. A local business has taken control of the construction and was employing not only Albany, but also great southern workers. I met a couple of apprentices who were working on that project. The tender was awarded to local contractors Wauters Building Company in August last year. The contractor took site possession in September. Civil works for the car park and training sandpit were completed in December and the project is proposed to be completed in the middle of next year.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to the second line item, “Jobs and Skills Centre Services”, under the service summary on page 373 of budget paper No 2. Can the minister tell me why the funding for the centre decreases over the forward estimates?

Ms S.F. McGURK: We made a massive investment in Jobs and Skills Centres across the state. There are now 19. In addition, there are two specialist providers offering free professional and practical advice on training and employment opportunities for both individuals and businesses. They have been heavily invested in and, from everything I can see, are a great success.

To answer the member's question, the funding changes over time due to the role that the centres will play in a couple of initiatives, but at this stage they are expected to peak in the next year or two. That is the Collie Just Transition plan and the defence industry white and grey collar workforce. As I said earlier, we have funded particular services for time-limited periods to see how those programs go. That could be an example of the enhanced Aboriginal services that are being offered in the metropolitan Jobs and Skills Centres and other programs as well. The average cost per Jobs and Skills Centre and individual and business client contact decreases are largely due to the timing of enhanced services being provided to underrepresented job seekers across a range of programs. There is probably a quicker way of saying it. We are offering some programs for two years. We may continue them but at this stage, we have just offered them for two years. The example I gave earlier is enhanced Aboriginal services.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister said two projects would be scaled back. What were they again, sorry?

Ms S.F. McGURK: Perhaps I overstated that. My apologies. I was talking about the Collie Just Transition plan and the defence industry. They are expected to continue for some time. It is probably more the individual services that are targeting at-risk or difficult-to-engage cohorts. They have been a target in our budget, particularly this year. We are looking at such a full employment market. How can we really start to focus on those cohorts that are difficult to get into the employment market? If we can get them trained and into some sort of work now, there is a good chance that we will keep them in work. It is a great opportunity to start to do some focus work while we have such a thirsty skills market.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Will there be any closures of any centres or a reduction in staff that correlates with the downturn in funding over those forward estimates?

Ms S.F. McGURK: There will certainly be no closures of centres. In fact, the higher amounts in the line items that the member referred to represent an increased investment by this state government across this whole portfolio. In that instance around these specific programs, we were always very clear they were time limited. As I said, if they are very successful, we might put up an argument for continuing them. These are notoriously difficult cohorts to engage. We are trying different approaches to see whether we can get some traction.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister announced the \$8.14 million investment in services for Aboriginal people over the 19 Jobs and Skills Centres. It does not seem to be represented in the figures before us because of the downturn in the out years. Are they represented somewhere else in the budget?

[7.50 pm]

Ms S.F. McGURK: A range of different initiatives have been implemented as well as the Aboriginal JobSeeker support program. We have committed \$1.2 million to that program for two years. That is the one I was referring to earlier. It will support about 400 Aboriginal people across the state to access targeted assistance to enable their transition into employment or training. It complements a range of existing programs that are likely to benefit Aboriginal job seekers. A number of Jobs and Skills Centres have a particular target of making themselves attractive to and focused on Aboriginal clients. In fact, I have one in Fremantle. I was very pleased to be able to open it not that long ago. Six Jobs and Skills Centres are focused on Aboriginal clients—Midland, Armadale, South Hedland, Kununurra, Fremantle and Collie. We have committed \$8.14 million to enhance services delivered to Aboriginal clients across the state. That includes the \$1.6 million program that I was talking about before. Just last year, over 3 050 clients who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander were assisted by the Jobs and Skills Centres. There are also Aboriginal employer engagement service grants for the Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which have been extended to June 2024. To increase the support for Aboriginal job seekers, the state government has established a partnership with the Waalitj Foundation to support Aboriginal young people to enter employment or training. This has been expanded to include 25 to 30-year-olds exiting the justice system. We have also commenced piloting a program to deliver cultural competency training for businesses to support, attract, recruit and retain Aboriginal employees. That is for employers to get their cultural competency up to speed so that people feel comfortable.

Although we still have a long way to go to meet our Closing the Gap targets and to get better outcomes for Aboriginal people in Western Australia, the VET enrolment data for 2022 is very strong. Last year, there were more than 2 005 publicly funded Aboriginal VET course enrolments, which is an increase of four per cent and translates to 500 more enrolments on pre-pandemic levels, so that is very strong. There were 368 enrolments in Aboriginal school-based training, which is an increase of 87 enrolments since 2021, and 855 Aboriginal people were assisted to undertake training through the participation program. I hope that all demonstrates that there are dollars, but it is across a range of different programs to try to assist Aboriginal people into work via training.

Ms L. METTAM: I have a question that relates to page 375 and the explanation of significant movements under the service "Skilled Migration, Including Overseas Qualification Assessment". The notes state —

The movement in the Total Cost of Service and income from the 2021–22 Actual to the 2022–23 Budget are largely due to changes in the number of State Nominated Migration applications. The increase in the Total Cost of Service and decrease in income between the 2022–23 Budget and the 2022–23 Estimated Actual largely reflects changes to State Nomination policy settings and new programs including the Skilled Migrant Job Connect and the Skilled Migration Employment Register programs.

Can the minister explain what global numbers relate to these years? How many skilled migrants are we looking at?

Ms S.F. McGURK: The total cost of service increases in the 2022–23 budget and the 2022–23 estimated actual are largely due to the waiver of state-nominated migration program fees for 2022–23 and the expansion of skilled migration programs and services. The program fee was waived from July 2022 for 12 months to remove barriers and significantly increase the pipeline of skilled workers available to support economic growth and industry diversification. Other changes included reduced requirements for English language skills, work experience and employment contracts. These have been successful in increasing the number of applications from skilled migrants seeking work in Western Australia. Fees will also be waived from July 2023 for 12 months to continue the successful program of increasing the pipeline of skilled workers in Western Australia.

Ms L. METTAM: I am seeking the increased number of skilled migrants in those years as a result of that policy change. I understand that there is a cost of service, but is the minister able to provide the number of skilled migrants?

Ms S.F. McGURK: We do not control those numbers; we make a request to the federal government for places under the state nomination program. In June 2022, the Premier requested 10 000 places for the 2022–23 program year and 8 140 places were allocated to WA, which represented 13 per cent of the places available to the states and territories. In 2021–22, 1 440 places were allocated.

Ms L. METTAM: Can the minister give some broader figures—for example, what were the figures in 2017 before the government’s change of policy around skilled migration?

Ms S.F. McGURK: What line item is the member referring to in regard to the 2017 figures?

The CHAIR: It is not in order as currently phrased, member for Vasse.

Ms L. METTAM: I want to get a clearer understanding of the implications of this line item on the explanation of significant movements. Is the minister able to provide figures from 2019?

The CHAIR: It is the same problem. We are dealing with this budget, not with the 2019 budget.

Ms S.F. McGURK: I also make the point that the member has quite a lot of opportunity to ask those questions in the normal course of events—how many places did the state government nominate both before the pandemic and during the pandemic, and how many of those were taken up?

The appropriation was recommended.