

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR — INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [12.07 pm]: A comprehensive independent review of Western Australia's vocational education and training sector, led by Emeritus Professor Margaret Seares, was completed in 2014. The review made a number of recommendations to the state government on the functionality of the state's public training system. Recommendation 1 is that the government provide clarity around the design and expectations of the state's vocational education and training system. Recommendation 14 is that the government monitor the viability and ensure the effective functionality of the state training network.

I am pleased to inform the house today that a significant step has been taken to progress these recommendations, with the commencement of the training sector reform project. The project will focus on the network of state training providers to give clarity around the overall design of the state's vocational education and training delivery system, as well as the expectations of government and community of the service levels provided. The project steering committee is chaired by former government minister Cheryl Edwardes, with representatives from industry and government. Mr John Langoulant, the former chief executive officer of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, is leading the project. An initial report from the project steering committee will include strategic advice and recommendations that will enhance the function of state training providers. I am expecting this report by December, with outcomes to be progressed in the months following.

The state government supports the continued growth of state training providers. The government funds 11 institutes to deliver training from more than 50 campuses located throughout Western Australia. These state training providers deliver publicly funded and fee-for-service courses for vocational education and training, apprenticeships and traineeships, support for workplace training, and commercial courses for business and industry. Our aim is to provide a contemporary training sector that is effective and efficient, and structured to ensure that the training being delivered is aligned to meet the needs of industry. This will ultimately benefit students in Western Australia and enhance the long-term viability of state training providers. The government is committed to strengthening the delivery of high-quality training that is accessible and equitable to the community and supports improved outcomes for students as well as government priorities. As a responsible government, we must ensure that the vocational education and training sector remains robust and sustainable while supporting industry needs and the Western Australian economy in the long term.