

**TRAINING SECTOR REFORM PROJECT**

*Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Training and Workforce Development)** [12.03 pm]: Last October I announced the commencement of the training sector reform project to provide clarity around the design and function of Western Australia's public training system. This followed recommendations from a comprehensive independent review of Western Australia's vocational education and training sector that was led by Emeritus Professor Margaret Seares. I am very pleased to provide an update on the training sector reform project, which has recommended key changes to the function and structure of our public training system. In line with the recommendations, our current 70 campuses that are administered by 11 TAFE colleges will soon be administered by five TAFE colleges with two metropolitan colleges and three regional colleges.

A key finding of the training sector reform project was that although our TAFE system has performed well in recent years against its counterparts in other states, there is a need for structural improvement. Several colleges have simply become too small in a rapidly growing market to respond effectively to changes in market circumstances and this was challenging their viability.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Streamlining the system to a five-college structure will result in colleges with broader and more diverse training programs —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Streamlining the system to a five-college structure will result in colleges with broader and more diverse training programs and greater capability both individually and as a system to respond to changes in market needs. The five colleges will also form a network that will be expected to engage with their local communities and industries to ensure programs are meeting emerging skill requirements, especially in regional areas. The campuses themselves will not change in their course delivery to students or their location. The administration function is being streamlined to create a more effective service.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We will also reinstate the TAFE brand in recognition of its strong historical association and awareness among the community. The training sector reform project recommended implementation from 1 July 2016; however, I am keen to embark on this reform beginning with the establishment of the new college structures. Therefore, the new structure will commence on 11 April with progressive, measured and systematic implementation over the next 18 months. The TAFE system must apply its resources to meet the skills needs of industry and maximise employment prospects for students. This will be achieved by harnessing the collective strengths of the college network. TAFE colleges are a significant cornerstone of Western Australia's vocational education and training system and the changes we are implementing will ensure this position continues to strengthen.

I seek leave to table a copy of the "Western Australian Training Sector Reform Project, Report", which will inform my parliamentary colleagues about this important reform.

[See paper 3878.]

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Before I sit down, on behalf of the member for Bunbury, I welcome students, teachers and parents from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bunbury. Hopefully, some of you will become future students in our TAFE sector.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie-Preston, I call you to order for the first time. I call the member for Girrawheen for the first time. I think that was totally unnecessary. We will move on.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you for the second time. We will move on.