



TWD/D22/0107058

Hon. Peter Tinley MLA
Chair
Economics and Industry Standing Committee

Email: laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Tinley

Inquiry into Western Australia's bilateral trade relationship with the Republic of Indonesia

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 June 2022, requesting a Departmental submission to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's *Inquiry into Western Australia's bilateral trade relationship with the Republic of Indonesia*.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) provides leadership in training and workforce development, working closely with industry, government and the community to support and facilitate strategies to build, attract and retain a skilled workforce for Western Australia.

TAFE International Western Australia (TIWA) was also requested to provide a submission to the Inquiry. TIWA is a branch of DTWD, responsible for the marketing, recruitment and enrolment of international students to study at Western Australian TAFE colleges and Government Schools, TIWA'S input is included in this response.

It is important to clarify that the delivery of international training offshore, is undertaken by the Western Australian TAFE colleges, which offer a range of courses and flexible delivery arrangements for their international clients.

A response to the Inquiry, containing a more detailed overview of the roles and responsibilities of DTWD, TIWA and the TAFE colleges is attached for your review (**Attachment A**).

Should you require further advice on the information contained in the response please contact Mr Brad Jolly, Executive Director Service Delivery at DTWD at brad.jolly@dtwd.wa.gov.au or 6551 5125.

Yours sincerely

KAREN HO
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Att

23 SEP 2022

Locked Bag 16 Osborne Park Delivery Centre WA 6916
Djookanup, 16 Parkland Road, Osborne Park WA 6017

Legislative Assembly - Economics and Industry Standing Committee

Inquiry into Western Australia's bilateral trade relationship with the Republic of Indonesia - September 2022

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) notes the Standing Committee is inquiring into matters relating to Western Australia's bilateral trade relationship with the Republic of Indonesia. Including the role of the State Government and Invest and Trade WA within the national trade and investment agenda, examining the status of trade with Indonesia and the implications of the ratification of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA).

DTWD appreciates that while the IA-CEPA includes a Skills Development Package, it notes the majority of the Package is focused on delivering outcomes for private training providers, promoting business exchanges and an expansion of the current work and holiday visa arrangement.

As the Inquiry Terms of Reference focuses primarily on examining matters that are not within DTWD's current remit, DTWD has prepared a more general response to the inquiry clarifying responsibilities, and the role of TAFE International WA (TIWA) and the WA TAFE colleges in the provision of international education within WA and internationally.

DTWD and the WA TAFE colleges are separate government entities, with the functions and roles of the colleges determined by Section 5 of the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996* and the *Vocational Education and Training (Colleges) Regulations 1996*. The roles of each of those entities with respect to international training is set out below.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development

DTWD works with industry, government and the community across the State to support and facilitate vocational education training (VET) and workforce development strategies that will build, attract and retain a skilled workforce for WA.

This is achieved through:

- planning and leading the State Government response to workforce development issues in Western Australia;
- growing Western Australia's workforce through attraction, retention, participation and skilled migration strategies;
- providing career development services that support individuals to plan and reach employment and career goals;
- delivering an innovative, flexible and responsive vocational and education training system; and
- recruitment and admission of international students studying at WA TAFE colleges and Government Schools through TAFE International WA.

DTWD provides administrative support to the WA TAFE colleges, to assist in the development of international training arrangements. Guidelines for this are contained in the *Ministerial Guidelines for International Commercial Activities for TAFE colleges* (Ministerial Guidelines) designed to facilitate a coordinated and strategic approach to overseas training delivery aligning with the priorities of the State.

DTWD also supports the WA TAFE colleges to ensure compliance with the *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020* (the Foreign Relations Act 2020) which gives the Commonwealth oversight and control over state and territory arrangements with foreign governments and their associated entities, including some private arrangements.

In addition to seeking approval from the Minister for Education and Training and the Minister for International Education, the *Foreign Relations Act 2020* also requires both the TAFE colleges and TIWA to seek approval for international training delivery from the Commonwealth Government, prior to the negotiation of contracts. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) coordinates this approval on behalf of the McGowan Government.

TAFE International WA – role and responsibilities

- TIWA is part of DTWD and is a registered training organisation and a provider listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students.
- TIWA is responsible for the marketing, recruitment, admission, training and assessment of international students studying at the Western Australian TAFE colleges. The delivery and assessment of VET programs is through third party agreements by WA TAFE colleges.
- TIWA has a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the WA Department of Education to undertake marketing, recruitment and admission of international students studying at Western Australian public schools.
- WA TAFE colleges are regulated by the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) for training delivered in WA for Western Australian students and for international students studying offshore.
- The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) regulates VET delivery to onshore international and multijurisdictional students under the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulation Act 2011 (Cth)* (NVETR Act) and the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth)* (ESOS Act).
- TIWA is required to comply with the *Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015* and the *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018*.
- TIWA employs Regional Managers, based in WA and required to travel to their respective offshore country markets to recruit international students for WA TAFE colleges and public schools.
- TIWA's Regional Managers aim to:
 - Maintain TIWA's international relationships with offshore education stakeholder networks in Indonesia that focus on increasing overseas student placements to Australia as a component of their business operations.
 - Maintain an education agent network, that complies with regulation requirements to market and sell international student pathways to potential students.
 - Identify potential Government bodies where scholarship opportunities exist for fully or partially funded programs leading to student recruitment outcomes.

- Represent TIWA at exhibitions, seminars, school visits and public talks.
- Meet with students, parents and education counsellors to influence and educate their study abroad decision making.
- Work collaboratively with TIWA's university partners in Indonesia to leverage opportunities leading to enrolments for TIWA in WA.
- Liaise with Austrade, JTSI, StudyPerth, private sector organisations, educational institutions, agents, students and embassy personnel to best position TIWA as a preferred study choice and WA as a study destination.

Indonesian Students studying in Australia

- Figures released by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission in August 2022, show there are 14,688 Indonesian students studying onshore in Australia across all education sectors.
- 42% of these are VET enrolments with only 24 enrolled at TIWA in WA.
- These relatively low numbers are a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated border closures.
- Culinary Arts, Commercial Cookery, Hospitality, Business and Management are the preferred course areas for Indonesian students to study at TAFE WA.

Current TAFE WA International Education Projects

JTSI-ESDM Memorandum of Understanding (JTSI and North Metropolitan TAFE(NMT))

- JTSI has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Human Resources Development Agency for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia (Kementerian Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral, ESDM), which was signed on 21 June 2021.
- This MoU was the first agreement between a national government and an Australian state under the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- It offers opportunities to leverage Western Australia's expertise and strengths in vocational education and training in the mineral resources and energy sectors.
- NMT is working with JTSI to leverage VET opportunities in the mineral resources and energy sectors and is currently developing a Plan of Action for the project.

Indonesian Government's Study Abroad Scholarships

- TIWA works with the WA Trade office and Austrade in Jakarta and the WA TVET Consortium to identify opportunities for the Indonesian Government scholarships for Indonesian students to study vocational training overseas.
- TIWA is the recipient of scholarship awardees Indonesian Government Scholarship programs in 2022:
 - Working with agent partner, Indonesia Australia Language Foundation (IALF Global) Denpasar, in 2022, TIWA received two students from 30 fully funded scholarships for VET students to study overseas. TIWA's students are funded by the Human Resources Development Agency of Papua; Papua Provincial Government.
 - The Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan in conjunction with Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA), which funded scholarships for almost 1,000 students to study a semester at one of 72 international education providers across 31 countries.

- TIWA received eight students who commenced their studies at NMT in 2022.

Working with the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

- DTWD has a close working relationship with JTISI, including in the areas of workforce strategies, international education and defence initiatives.
- In 2018, the State Government launched “*Where bright futures begin: International Education in Perth, Western Australia 2018-2025*”. The strategy set out to position WA as a world class international education destination with JTISI as the lead agency in conjunction with StudyPerth.
- JTISI established the WA International Education Advisory Group, to provide strategic leadership for the international education sector with a current focus on recovery and renewal initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The advisory group brings together a broad range a stakeholders and supporting partners from across the sector, to collaboratively help shape and govern WA's strategy and international recovery response.
- The State Government, through the advisory group, has committed to the development and implementation of an *International Education Recovery and Renewal Plan*, which is a key part of the WA Recovery Plan.
- DTWD, including TIWA, and the TAFE sector are key contributors to the plan.
- TIWA works with JTISI’s International Education team and StudyPerth collaborating on marketing and recruitment initiatives leveraging the WA Government/StudyPerth marketing campaigns and branding.
- TIWA works closely with JTISI’s International Investment and Trade Office in Jakarta, particularly with the Education Business Development Manager (EBDM).
- TIWA Regional Managers visit frequently to provide updates, share intelligence and promote study opportunities in WA and recruit international students.
- In the two year period prior to the COVID-19 border closures, TIWA and JTISI’s Jakarta office co-hosted a number of events to promote the sector including:
 - The TAFE WA and University Partners Break-Fast Celebration, Jakarta 2018, inviting WA universities, the Australian Embassy, Austrade, Indonesia - Australian Business Chamber for Mining Infrastructure Energy & Resources and key education agents.
 - an Education Agent Training Workshop in July 2019 providing training to six key Jakarta-based agents.
- JTISI’s EBDM maintains connections with Government, Business councils and schools in Indonesia providing intelligence for TIWA staff and provide opportunities for collaborative recruitment and branding activities in Indonesia.
- TIWA conducts training with the EBDM on product information, market intelligence and to identify potential collaborations and recruitment opportunities. This has resulted in a potential Indonesia Focus Group consisting of WA institutions interested in Indonesian student recruitment engagement.

The role of the WA TAFE colleges in the provision of international training

- The WA TAFE sector is responsible for the delivery of international training offshore and have extensive experience training ‘in-country’. The TAFEs provide flexibility to delivery options for either full qualification (Certificate II, III, IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma), micro-credentials or ‘skills set’ (selected units from a qualification).

- Collectively, the WA TAFE colleges offer over 1,000 VET qualifications across a wide range of trade, technical and professional disciplines delivered at specialised Campuses located throughout Regional and Metropolitan WA.
- In 2018 and 2019, South Metropolitan TAFE (SMT) was recognised in the Top 50 offshore VET providers in the Asia Pacific Region for their work across this region including delivery of the Advanced Diploma of Engineering at the Zhejiang Institute of Mechanical Engineering (ZIME) in the Zhejiang Province. Successful delivery of offshore training solutions in China and onshore Professional Development (PD) programs for Sister State Institutions in the Zhejiang Province, led to SMT receiving this prestigious award.
- While the WA TAFE colleges offer a wide range of courses and are flexible in delivery options for offshore international clients, all Colleges are mandated to operate within the *Guidelines for International Commercial Activities of TAFE colleges* and the *Australian Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020*.

South Metropolitan TAFE

- SMT is very experienced in onshore delivery of Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture training and is most interested in working in these fields in Indonesia and the province of East Java.
- SMT previously explored the delivery of Maritime and Fisheries training in the province of East Java with Politeknik Negeri Pontianak for the Certificate III in Fisheries, however, the COVID-19 pandemic and the logistics of in-country delivery stalled these discussions.
- SMT works closely with industry to develop specialised study areas to ensure all training produces employable graduates including:
 - Applied Engineering/Oil and Gas: delivered at the Munster Campus with a fully operational Oil and Gas plant.
 - AeroSpace and Logistics: delivered at Jandakot Campus with a static 737 aircraft for training.
 - Automotive Technology: delivered at the Carlisle and Kwinana Campus with live automotive workshops.
 - Building and Construction: delivered at the Rockingham and Thornlie Campuses with full workshops and live works.
 - Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts: delivered at the Bentley Campus with a fully operational training restaurant open to the public. SM TAFE also has a new hospitality training facility opening at Mandurah Campus in 2023.
 - Fashion Design: Delivered at the Bentley Campus this full fashion cutting and manufacturing facilities.
 - Business and Information Technology: delivered at Murdoch and Thornlie Campus.
 - Cybersecurity: delivered at Murdoch Campus with a full Training Security Operations Centre (TSOC).
 - Animal Services: delivered at Murdoch and Bentley Campus.
 - English and Foundation Skills at Carlisle and Bentley Campus.
 - Community Services, Health, Sport and Lifestyle at Murdoch and Thornlie Campuses.
 - Maritime Studies, Aquaculture and Fisheries: delivered at Fremantle Campus.
 - Science and the Environment: delivered at Murdoch Campus.

North Metropolitan TAFE

- NMT provides high standard, industry relevant training to maximise the productivity of graduates and the aspirations of students. Study specialisations include:
 - Agriculture, Science and the Environment
 - Automotive
 - Building and Construction
 - Business and Finance
 - Creative Industries
 - Education and Community Services
 - Engineering and Mining
 - English, Languages and Foundation Studies
 - Health, Beauty and Fitness
 - Hospitality, Tourism and Events
 - IT, Library and Digitisation
 - Logistics and Supply Chain Operations

South Regional TAFE (SRT)

- SRT has niche expertise in delivery of courses and skills in:
 - Green Jobs such as aquaculture, agriculture, horticulture, parks and land, biosecurity, conservation; and
 - Eco system management including in areas such as heavy haulage, weed control, plant propagation, safety, seed collection, bio security and beekeeping.

Many of the courses are well suited for application in large scale operations and economies such as Indonesia.

The WA TVET Consortium

In 2018, NMT, SMT, the University of Western Australia and Phoenix Academy, formed the Western Australian Technical and Vocational Education Training (WA TVET) Consortium.

The Consortium brings together capabilities and expertise across the public and private sector to investigate, bid and deliver unique international training solutions and programs for international training business.