



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–2020 and
ACT Budget 2020–2021

Responses to **questions on notice** following public hearing of 23 February 2021

Economic Development portfolio

ACT Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiries into Annual and Financial reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21

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Economic Development portfolio

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2	Davis	CMTEDD Annual report: + Mature Workers Grants Program	<i>Redirected to Minister for Skills</i>	12 March 21



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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QON No. ED1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA:

[Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report Vol 1, pp. 61–63]

In relation to:

University support in COVID-19

What support has the ACT Government been asked to provide by the ACT's universities in relation to the loss of international students during the COVID-19 pandemic?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The ACT Government has been asked to provide a range of support by the ACT's universities in relation to the loss of international students during the COVID-19 pandemic including payroll tax relief and opportunities to collaborate on shovel-ready projects and training and skills development .

The ACT Government has committed to financially support universities by:

- Offering payroll tax deferrals of up to \$10 million per university to ease cash-flow pressures.
- Providing access to project funding of up to \$2.1 million in 2019-20 and a further \$1 million in 2020-21 through the Priority Investment Program (PIP), which is designed to support jobs and economic recovery and encourage collaboration between tertiary education providers, the research sector and industry.
- Establishing the \$30 million Future Jobs Fund to support economic recovery, with a focus on the higher education and research sector and creating future jobs in growth industries. \$2.165 million is allocated in the 2020-21 budget to prioritise projects that protect or create new jobs in our universities and private sector.

The Government has also continued to provide in kind support for student attraction, retention and experience activities through Study Canberra. For example, Study Canberra has:

- promoted online studies;
- worked to attract onshore international students;
- worked to increase domestic enrolments,
- funded \$150,000 in student hardship support,
- supported a summer connections program for those unable to return home, and



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- maintained engagement with key agent stakeholders through attending or hosting various events.

The Government is also working with universities, other state and territory jurisdictions and the Australian Government to plan COVID-safe pathways for international student returns when conditions allow for it. This follows work with institutions during the summer border restrictions to ensure domestic students were able to meet health requirements to commence their studies in Canberra in February 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: **12.3.21**

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. ED2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA (CHAIR), MS SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MR JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA

Inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019–20 and ACT Budget 2020–21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA:

[Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report Vol 1, p. 63]

In relation to:

Mature Workers Grants Program

Can you tell us more about the two projects that aim to address the barriers experienced by mature workers?

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Two projects were funded through the ACT Government's Mature Workers Grant Program in 2018–19 to deliver additional services targeting mature workers who live and/or work in the ACT and their existing or potential employers.

- *Mature Jobseeker Support Project*: this project has assisted the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) to provide various levels of support to assist mature age Canberrans to overcome barriers to reskilling and upskilling. The support has included high-quality case management services, access to tailored training opportunities and facilitating engagement with potential employers. This project ended on 31 January 2021 and a final report on the project outcomes is expected in March 2021.
- *Canberra Business Chamber (CBC) Mature Age Workers in Tourism project*: this project has enabled the CBC to collaborate with CIT to educate employers, and mature age workers, about the training and reskilling opportunities available, and to connect individuals with employment opportunities across a range of industries. This project ended on 28 February 2021 and a final report on project outcomes is expected in March 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 
By the Minister for Skills, Chris Steel MLA

Date: 11/3/21