



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. AR -26

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
5 March 2021

Asked by MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA:

In relation to:

Mr Whale: Yes, I can just sort of paint the picture that—so we did drop student numbers last year due to COVID, which was largely around the challenges that students had with their employers or with their family life and so there was quite a significant drop, including in international students that we teach.

The impact for our staffing was—as Ms Cover said, there was no job losses—the amount of hours and work that casuals do and as Ms Cover also pointed out, we are a very flexible workforce in that area and that is also the nature of CIT and vocational education; a lot of our casual staff actually work in the industry, so they might have their own landscaping business and then a couple of days a week or one day a week or one day a fortnight come in and teach at CIT to teach students.

Now we supported those staff all the way through, but there was—because of the drop in some of those course numbers and the number of students last year, there was a drop in the number of casuals we used, but we did continue to support them, just the level of support was not matched by the number of hours they were teaching.

THE CHAIR: Right. So there was a reduction of hours worked for some people. Was there anyone that had their hours ceased entirely?

Mr Whale: Not that I am aware of. I would have to go back and check, but not that I am aware of.

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

During COVID-19, CIT supported the ACT Government commitment to maintain casual and temporary workers to ensure the sustainability of the local economy. To that end, no CIT employee had their hours ceased entirely due to COVID.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

12/3/21



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By the Minister for Skills, Chris Steel MLA