



## Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Jo Clay MLA on 24 November 2023: Josephine Anderson on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 24 November 2023 [PAGES 8-9]

In relation to: Pre-vocational courses

**MS CLAY:** Thank you, chair. Minister, CIT only offers one prevocational course at the moment in plumbing, I understand. I am wondering, is there a lack of demand for prevocational courses?

**Mr Steel:** I will hand over to CIT to talk about what they offer and then we can perhaps talk about what the future might be in that space.

**Ms Robertson:** Thank you. I will ask Ms Jo Andersen, Josephine Andersen, Executive Director Education, Futures and Students, to provide you with more details on our prevocational programs generally and also plumbing.

**Ms Andersen:** Thank you very much for the question. My name is Josephine Andersen. I am the Executive Director of Education, Futures and Students at CIT and I have read and understood the privilege statement. We offer many more than one prevocational course. We have a range of short courses which are enabling or pathway courses, everything from foundation skills, literacy and numeracy through to Certificate II courses that may provide a pathway into an apprenticeship.

**MS CLAY:** Excellent, so there are a number of prevocational courses?

**Ms Andersen:** Absolutely.

**MS CLAY:** Yes, that is good to hear.

**Mr Steel:** And sorry, just more broadly, we have—both through the fee free TAFE program but also looking to the future around funding for foundation skills through the National Skills Agreement, there will be an opportunity to look at potential further support for those types of courses. We have typically funded some of those courses as well through our grants programs as well through Skills Canberra, so various different organisations, pre-apprenticeship type to support people to get the skills that they need to then go on and complete full qualifications.

So we are looking and working with industry about what opportunities there might be to provide more of those courses and we have been engaging with industry, particularly in five key industry areas, to work on actions as part of the development of new industry action skills action plans, so there may be opportunities through those to develop those types of courses if needed to attract more people into industry, particularly people that need a little bit of extra support and training to get to the point where they can do that full qualification if needed.

**MS CLAY:** Sure, and I am wondering—this might be a good one to take on notice—if I could get a list of which of the trades have prevocational courses through CIT, but on notice would be fine. How do you decide when you need to be offering a prevocational course? How do you sort of gauge the demand for that?

**Mr Steel:** Industry. Getting in touch, I think, with and engaging with both RTOs directly but also Skills Canberra. It is fair to say that some of the lower level qualifications under the qualification framework also act as that sort of pathway, particularly with the trades, where to be trade qualified you may need to have undertaken at least a Certificate III qualification. Many of the Australian school based apprenticeships, apprentices are doing qualifications at a lower sort of Certificate II level and that effectively is a pathway into them doing the further qualifications, but then they can have some of those skills recognised when they do go on to complete the full qualification.

**MS LAWDER:** Is that, for example, what happened in the case with Bentspoke Brewing? The employer got in touch about the training?

**Mr Steel:** Yes, so industry will often get in touch directly about that. The Bentspoke situation is a little bit different. Their opportunity there is to pilot a program looking at specific units of competency, six particular units at this point in time, and then that may result in, if that is proven to be a success under a sort of apprenticeship style model where the training is delivered by an industry expert with a TAE qualification, which is the Certificate IV, then they may be able to in the future expand out not just to deliver those six areas of competency, but that full certificate qualification in food production, which is particularly focused on artisan fermented products, so slightly different situation, but yes, there are definitely opportunities at the moment to undertake smaller skill sets or units of competency types of qualifications which can skill people up that do not necessarily mean doing a full qualification. Just broadly, that is—

**MS CLAY:** I am wondering if you could also tell me, possibly on notice, how many people have enrolled in the plumbing prevocational training over the last three years, say, like in each of the years over the last three years?

**Mr Steel:** I think CIT can take that one because I think they are the only RTO that provides that in the ACT.

**MS CLAY:** Yes, great. So you have just taken those two questions on notice? We usually get a verbal—

**Mr Steel:** I will let them confirm.

**Ms Andersen:** Yes, we can take those questions on notice.

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

CIT is an independent body with a governing board. I have been advised that this is the list of prevocational trade courses on scope. CIT advises that they don't deliver all of these currently. Some are being delivered through the Fee Free TAFE program.

Statement of Attainment – Plumbing Prevocational Skills SA-TS76  
Statement of Attainment - Preparing for Work SA-CM08  
Statement of Attainment - Literacy for the Workplace SA-CM10  
Statement of Attainment – Communication for the Workplace SA-CM11  
Statement of Attainment – Numeracy for the Workplace SA-CM09  
Non-Accredited Training – Practical Skills for Work and Learning XA-CM05  
CPC20720 Certificate II in Drainage  
CPC20220 Certificate II in Construction pathways  
AUR20720 Certificate II in Automotive vocational preparation  
AUR20520 Certificate II in Automotive servicing technology  
SHB20216 Certificate II in Salon Assistant  
SIT20421 Certificate II in Cookery  
UEE20120 Certificate II in Split Air conditioning and Heat pump systems  
UEE21920 Certificate II in Electronics  
FSK20119 - Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways  
22473VIC Certificate II in General Education for Adults  
10727NAT Certificate I in Spoken and Written English  
10728NAT Certificate II in Spoken and Written English  
10729NAT Certificate III in Spoken and Written English

Number of people enrolled in the plumbing prevocational course in the last 3 years:

2020 – 7 enrolments  
2021 – 2 enrolments  
2022 – 3 enrolments  
2023 – 1 enrolment

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

1/12/23

By the Minister for Skills, Chris Steel MLA