

Answer to Questions on Notice

I have obtained as much of the information that I could get hold of this afternoon.

You will see below the response from our team who look after communications. I think it speaks for itself. Facebook is a difficult medium in that they constantly search for a way to keep debate amongst the educators open while at the same time not giving unnecessary offense. As Ms Hicks said this afternoon she now regrets the posting.

Also attached are some statistics provided by one of our researchers this afternoon.

It only tracks those centres where we are active, have at least some members and/or the employer has requested our help. Obviously some portion of the rest will submit applications for funding as time goes on. But it does show that in most States there is a substantial regional coverage.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Crosby

Big Steps Facebook Page - clarification

On May 6, a post was made to the Big Steps campaign Facebook page that included a Google maps image of a private property belonging to Gwynn Bridge.

The post was not made by a Big Steps Facebook page administrator but by a United Voice member via their personal Facebook account.

At the time a discussion was had amongst some United Voice staff members as to whether the post should be removed. United Voice staff members with Facebook moderator permissions try to encourage open and free-flowing debate on the Big Steps Facebook page. They encourage the Facebook community to self-moderate wherever possible in order to better facilitate discussion. Posts that contain racist, homophobic, sexist or other offensive language will be removed as soon as possible however in other instances the moderators try to allow the community to respond.

In this particular instance, comments were made in response to the post that were critical of the image and the moderators considered that the discussion thread and the post should remain on the page in the interests of transparency and debate.

As the post was made by an individual rather than a page administrator, it would not have appeared in the Facebook newsfeeds of Big Steps supporters and would have been seen only by a relatively small number of people.

For these reasons the post was not deleted.

	Centres	Workers Estimate	Lic Places	Lic Places - Market Share
Expressed Interest for EYQF to date / working with United Voice	1335	19709	93059	27.71%
Metro Regions	883	13138	61173	18.22%
Provincial and Rural Regions	452	6571	31886	9.50%
Interest for EYQF not expressed	4433	49177	242735	72.29%
Metro Regions	2752	30727	150867	44.93%
Provincial and Rural Regions	1681	18450	91868	27.36%
Grand Total	5768	68885	335794	100.00%