

Question on notice no. 164

Portfolio question number: SQ24-001863

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

**Education and Employment Committee, Employment and Workplace Relations
Portfolio**

Senator Matthew O'Sullivan: asked the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations on 14 November 2024—

How many of the 500,000 Fee Free TAFE places, heralded by the Government, are fully funded new places?

a. Is it the case that, without Fee Free TAFE, most of these courses would have been delivered?

Answer —

Please see PDF attachment.

Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Question No. SQ24-001863

Senator Matt O'Sullivan provided in writing.

500,000 Fee Free TAFE places that are fully funded

Question

How many of the 500,000 Fee Free TAFE places, heralded by the Government, are fully funded new places?

a. Is it the case that, without Fee Free TAFE, most of these courses would have been delivered?

Answer

In Tranche 1 of Fee-Free TAFE (2023), there were 355,557 enrolments reported by states and territories. Of these, 119,946 (33.7%) were new places and 235,611 (66.3%) were existing places that then became fee-free.

Tranche 2 of Fee-Free TAFE, that commenced in January 2024, has focused on making existing places fee-free, resulting in an additional 153,332 enrolments.

Fee-Free Construction, which will provide 20,000 places, including approximately 5,000 pre-apprenticeship places, will provide additional fee-free places in courses relevant to the construction industry. These places will be offered in 2025 and 2026.

Under the Fee-Free TAFE Skills Agreement, new places are defined as those where the price of training, both delivery and tuition costs, are covered by Fee-Free TAFE. The definition of an existing place is those identified by the State as a current place (in agreed priority qualifications) where the tuition fee component is covered by Fee-Free TAFE. For the student this removes the financial barrier to study and provides cost-of-living relief for students.