

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Question No. of 2026

Legislative Council

ASKED BY: The Honourable Megan Webb MLC, Independent member for Nelson

ANSWERED BY: The Honourable Felix Ellis MP, Minister for Skills and Jobs

QUESTION:

1. Detail whether any stakeholder consultation, including with staff and students, occurred before these subsidy redirections were finalised, and if so, which stakeholders were consulted and when;
2. In relation to each of the Laboratory Certificate IV and Diploma in Laboratory Technology, detail:
 - a. the class size capacity of the current TasTAFE laboratory facilities;
 - b. the class enrolment numbers for each course for the last five calendar years;
 - c. the graduation rate for each course for each of those five years;
 - d. a gender breakdown of both enrolled students and teaching staff for each course over five years.
3. Provide any evidence-based data and analysis regarding the reported low enrolments for all identified 12 courses for the last three calendar years;
4. Confirm whether a gender impact assessment of potential impact of the proposed subsidy redirections was undertaken to inform this decision, and if not why not?;
5. Detail the estimated savings of the redirection of subsidies from these identified 12 courses;
6. Detail which courses will be the recipients of the redirected subsidies, and any evidence-based data and analysis upon which that decision was based?

ANSWER:

1. TasTAFE has an Industry Engagement team who work closely with industry and key stakeholders to promote training alignment with current and future workforce needs. The qualifications were reviewed based on an analysis of enrolment data, completion rates, government priority skill areas and market information. TasTAFE advises that there will be a period of teach out to allow currently enrolled learners to complete their studies.

2. As follows:

a. 18

b.

Course Description	2020Q4	2021Q4	2022Q4	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q3
Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques	23	22	22	19	20	23
Diploma of Laboratory Technology	11	15	9	11	8	9

c.

Course Description	2020Q4	2021Q4	2022Q4	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q3
Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques	8	7	5	6	12	4
Diploma of Laboratory Technology	2	1	3	3	3	3

d.

Learners – at completion

Course Description	Gender	2020Q4	2021Q4	2022Q4	2023Q4	2024Q4
Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques	Female	6	7	8	9	5
	Gender Diverse /Non-Binary		1	1		1
	Male	5	6	6	2	2
Diploma of Laboratory Technology	Female	4	8	4	3	4
	Male	2	5		3	1

Teachers – static for 5yr period

- Female 2 (0.5FTE & 0.6FTE)
- Female Sessional 2
- Female Contract 1 (0.6FTE)
- Male FTE 0
- Male Sessional 2

(Technical Employee 1 (0.8 FTE) male)

3. Every effort is made to maximise student enrolment at TasTAFE across the full suite of courses, with TasTAFE having over 25,000 student enrolments each year. TasTAFE does not collect data on why people do not enrol in particular courses.
4. TasTAFE advises that no gender impact assessment was undertaken and gender is not used as a basis for determining subsidised courses. The courses where subsidies have been removed were selected on the basis of:
 - persistently low enrolments relative to capacity;
 - consistently high withdrawals and by therefore, low completion rates; and
 - qualifications not explicitly identified as priority training areas.

5&6.

There are no budgetary savings as a result of changes to the schedule of subsidised courses. TasTAFE's overall Tasmanian government funding remains unchanged. TasTAFE will redirect resources into areas of priority training aligned with the Tasmanian Skills plan including training for the care, renewable energy and construction sectors. Priority training areas consider those roles where industry requires a formal qualification for workforce participation and where TasTAFE is best placed to deliver.

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED



Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Skills and Jobs

Date: 28 October 2025