

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

SCHOOLS

Enrolments are projected to grow by 27,000 students over the four years from 2019 to 2023. \$452.8M in 2019-20 allocated to build and improve WA schools to support the growth in suburbs and modernise learning environments. Includes:

- \$152.8M for four new primary schools to open in 2020 and five new primary schools to open in 2021
- \$77.4M to redevelop Perth secondary schools
- \$3M in 2019-20, towards converting 51 primary classrooms across the State into science laboratories

Additional \$40M over 4 years allocated to students with disability to help address learning needs of WA students. This brings the total to \$326.8M in 2019 and includes funding for additional specialist programs for students with autism.

No mention in the Budget Papers of any specific allocation for programs for students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, despite evidence of significant learning and behavioural challenges faced by these students.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

Apparent \$20M cut to Department of Training and Workforce Development service delivery allocation (\$355M to \$335M) – actually increased expenditure due to new transfer of \$46.7M from Royalties for Regions.

Challenges identified in Social Assistance and Allied Health Workforce Strategy not substantially addressed. E.g. No consideration of reduced fees for community sector courses, and sector workforce development needs not identified in list of strategies requiring whole-of-Government response.

The Strategy (actually a State Training Board report with recommendations) identified a need to double the number of disability and aged care support workers over the next five years, with the VET sector providing the required training. Cost of courses such as Certificate III in Individual Support and the Certificate III/IV in Allied Health Assistance discourage people getting the training to take advantage of the jobs that will be available.

2019-20 Pilot of an Enterprise Training program for agencies to partner with RTOs.

While it is possible some proportion of National Partnership funding will be allocated to apprenticeships and training in community services, it is not clear how much.

With forecast growth of 40,000 jobs by 2023 (currently 172,000 employed), the sector is an economic powerhouse in the WA economy, but its training needs are not getting the support Government provides to the mining, tourism or even defence industries (which received a further \$3M for the Office of Defence West, to support the Federal Department of Defence and establish a Defence Advisory Forum to advise the Premier and the Minister for Defence Issues. The Supporting Communities Forum, in contrast, has no Budget allocation and minimal departmental resourcing.)