

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

POST COMPULSORY REPORT

Michelle Marshall – Portfolio Holder, March 2018

Post Compulsory has seen quite a few changes in the last 12 months.

VET SECTOR: The VET-FEE amendments have had quite an impact on this sector. The Legislation and Amendment or Provider Integrity and Other Measures Bill 2017 saw new legislation introduced to bring into line all training providers. This bill saw measures brought in that will protect both the student and providers. Many disreputable training providers were closed down. This should bring about a strengthening of the VET sector.

APPRENTICESHIPS: An early support mentoring program for apprentices and their trainees, called the Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices Program was introduced to increase apprentice retention rates, particularly in the first 2 years of training, in order to improve completion rates and support the supply of skilled workers.

ENTRY STANDARDS: After a review by the Federal Government in 2017, universities will be forced to release more information about their entry standards. The review stated that some admission processes have become more complex and hard to understand. It was found that prospective students found it difficult to make informed choices because of the confusion about the ATAR required for different courses and the way bonus points schemes were applied.

UNIVERSITY NEWS: UWA announced in April that there are 3 training hubs for regional medical training in Midwest/Goldfields, Kimberley/Pilbara and the Great Southern/Wheatbelt regions. These hubs will aim to increase the medical workforce in regional WA and remote sparsely populated, under-served and disadvantaged areas. The most popular university courses signed up for in 2018 were commerce, teaching, engineering, psychology, law and nursing. Across the institutions, UWA demands the highest ATAR results from its entrants. In December a program was announced to make access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics easier for 1200 students living in regional and remote areas of Australia. Dedicated scholarships of up to \$18,000 were made available. The program is designed to suit the needs of rural and regional students.