
Revisions and clarifications

These changes were incorporated into the report on 18th February 2021.

Following release of the final report, the Commission received information that has led it to revise the following statements in the report. These changes have been incorporated into the online and print-on-demand versions of the report.

Page 14 — third paragraph

Replace “The establishment of a new national regulator coincided with unprecedented growth in the number of training providers and major policy changes that involved under-appreciated risks. In the case of VET FEE–HELP, flawed program design added further risks.”

with “The establishment of a new national regulator coincided with major policy changes that involved under-appreciated risks. In the case of VET FEE–HELP, flawed program design added further risks, especially when set against the sudden increase in the number of VFH providers and loans.”

Page 95 — box 2.5

Replace “Western Australia is offering free and cheaper TAFE courses as part of their Lower Fees Local Skills initiative. This includes offering free skill sets, halving the price of some courses, and capping the price of others (DTWD (WA) 2020c). According to some media reporting Western Australia has seen a 6.4 per cent increase in enrolments year-on-year, 2019 to 2020 (Keenan 2020).”

with “**Western Australia** is offering free and cheaper TAFE courses as part of its Lower Fees Local Skills initiative. The program also allows for training at selected private providers. Fees in these courses are capped, and are reduced to half price or below (DTWD (WA) 2020c). According to some media reporting Western Australian TAFEs have seen a 6.4 per cent increase in enrolments year-on-year, 2019 to 2020 (Keenan 2020). In addition, free skill sets are being offered as a response to COVID-19.”

Page 288 — fourth paragraph

Replace “In Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT, RTOs must charge a (modest) minimum student fee. In the ACT, minimum student fees range between \$100 and \$380. In the other jurisdictions an RTO must charge a student fee above \$0.”

with “In Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT, RTOs are required to charge a minimum student fee. In the ACT, minimum student fees range between \$100 and \$380. In the other jurisdictions an RTO must charge a student

fee of \$0 or above. Some jurisdictions prohibit RTOs providing enticements for students to undertake subsidised training — in effect, a \$0 minimum student fee.”

In relation to this change, note that governments generally have an expectation that private RTOs must charge some student fees, however the specific rules vary between jurisdictions (see appendix C). For example, in Queensland RTOs must charge more than \$0. In Victoria, courses can be free, but RTOs are prohibited from providing enticements to students to undertake subsidised training.