

EDUCATION & TRAINING

WACOSS commends the government's spending on state education with boosts to teaching, educational assistants and Aboriginal Education Officers. Spending on new schools, upgrades to school infrastructure and teacher resourced mental health programs are welcome.

The Council is particularly pleased to see a five year commitment to establish new Aboriginal Ranger Programs.

SECTOR

- 70 extra education jobs in public schools will be created
- 300 education assistants throughout WA public schools
- 120 teachers
- 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education officers who will be employed at WA schools over the next few years - \$10.6 million over four years, for Aboriginal Education Officers funded by Royalties to Regions.

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

- 300 schools will be provided with a 0.1FTE of a Level 3 teacher time to oversee the delivery of evidence-based mental health programs.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHS (STEM)

- \$2 million for professional development programs that support the integration of coding in the curriculum, including website creation as well as computer software and app development.
- \$1.3 million over four years for science in Primary Schools funded by Royalties for Regions.

TRAINING

- Planning funding to commence work to establish an additional behavioural change service to support perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

TAFE

- Funding to five TAFE Colleges decreased by \$13.9 million in 2016-17.
- \$6.9 million will be spent over the forward estimates period to reinstate delivery of craft industry trade qualifications at metropolitan TAFE campuses from the 2018 training year.
- The Government's commitment to freeze vocational education and training (VET) course fees from the 2018 training year, at a cost of \$11.8 million over the forward estimates, will result in an additional \$2.8 million spent on grants to private training providers, external to the general government sector.
- The remaining \$8.9 million of expenditure has been allocated to the TAFE Colleges as a funding substitute for VET course fee revenue.