

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Education

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

1. How many executive level contracts for staff are on-foot at the Institute, and at what cost?
 2. How many students are enrolled at Batchelor Institute?
 3. How many students have completed a course at Batchelor Institute? Please provide figures for 2016, 2017 and 2018 academic years.
 4. How many students have not completed a course at Batchelor Institute? Please provide figures for 2016, 2017 and 2018 academic years and reasons for non-completion.
 5. What communities are Batchelor students from?
 6. How much community-based training was undertaken by the Batchelor Institute in 2017? Please detail names of courses and communities where training occurred.
 7. What financial resources are dedicated to taking training to communities in 2018/19?
 8. The Assurance Advisory Group handed down its report on the Institute in March, revealing some concerning findings.
 - (a) Why did the Institute allow 80 per cent for personnel expenditure?
 - (b) Why was \$0 budgeted for Repairs and Maintenance?
 9. Will the Minister for Education review and consider the Membership of the Council?
 10. What safeguards against actual or perceived conflicts of interest are in place for the hiring of executive-level staff at the Institute? What policies are in place?
 11. Is the CFO of the Institute a member of the Institute's Audit Committee?
 12. How many staff are employed at the Institute (both FTE and temporary contracts)?
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ANSWERS

1. There are ten executive contracts, including two higher duties contracts and three casual consultants providing temporary assistance. Total cost of the contracts is \$1 649 62.
2. Table 1 provides current enrolment data.

Table 1: Students enrolled or having been enrolled in 2018

Vocational education and training	Masters degrees by research	PhD	*Charles Darwin University courses delivered through Batchelor Institute
1697	3	11	776

*Students enrolled in Charles Darwin University (CDU) courses delivered through Batchelor Institute under a CDU/Bachelor Institute agreement.

3. (a) 2016: 1003 completers
(b) 2017: 1051 completers
(c) 2018: 329 completers to date

N.B. Students completing a Charles Darwin University (CDU) course delivered through Batchelor Institute graduate with a CDU qualification rather than Batchelor qualification.

4. Table 2 provides current data relating to non-completers.

Table 2: Non-completers, 2016, 2017 and 2018, and reasons for non-completion

Year	Reason for non-completion				TOTAL
	Discontinued	Enrolled	Inactive	Lapsed	
2016	866	41	1100	1048	3055
2017	1155	108	1378	188	2829
2018	467	1012	0	2	1481

Attachment A provides more detailed information about 2016–2018 non-completions, including definitions of and reasons for non-completion.

5. Attachment B lists students' home community/town/city by vocational education and training higher education enrolment.
6. In 2017, 37 per cent of all courses were delivered in locations classified as remote 2, which are communities or towns located more than 50 kilometres from either Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek or Batchelor. 28 per cent of total course delivery was at Batchelor, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek.

Attachment C provides details of courses and locations of training delivered in 2017. Batchelor does not deliver in Darwin or Palmerston, with the exception of a Certificate II in Community Services in 2018.

7. Batchelor Institute receives \$600 000 from the Commonwealth Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to deliver training programs in communities.

8. (a) The amount for the 2017 year was approved by Council members at that time. The 2018 budget allocates 100 per cent of personnel costs.
- (b) Zero budget for repairs and maintenance in the 2017 year was approved by the Council members at that time. \$650 000 for repairs and maintenance has been allocated in the 2018 budget.

9. The current composition of the Council, and the process by which individuals become members, is set out in section 11 of the [Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education Act](#) and will be addressed when the Act is reviewed.

The Institute's Director and the Chief Executive of the Department of Education are direct appointments to the Council. The remaining members are either appointed by the Administrator on the Minister's recommendation, or approved for appointment by the Administrator.

Individual Council members are appointed or elected for a specific period of time, which allows for a turnover of Council members, with the exception of the Director and Chief Executive of the Department of Education who are Council members only while they hold their positions.

With regard to the five members of Council nominated by the Minister under s11(1)(a)(b) of the Act, the Minister, upon expiry of a member's appointment and before either reappointment or appointment of a new member of Council will ensure that the composition of the Council meets the requirements of s11(3) of the Act.

10. The BIITE [Staff Code of Conduct](#) applies to all employees, contractors, volunteers and consultants. The code of conduct defines both apparent and actual conflicts of interest and sets our requirements at section 3(g) and 4(g) and (i) relating to the avoidance and notification of conflicts of interest. Allegations or instances of breaches of the Staff Code of Conduct are dealt with under the Discipline provisions of the Batchelor Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. Failure to make the declaration would be a breach of the Staff Code of Conduct.
11. The Chief Financial Officer is an observer on the Institute's Audit Committee.
12. Batchelor Institute employs 183.15 full-time equivalent staff (inclusive of temporary contracts).