

A. Full responses from entities

As mandated in Section 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the Queensland Audit Office gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to:

- Minister for Education and the Arts
- Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training
- Director-General, Department of Education
- Director-General, Department of Trade, Employment and Training.

We also provided a copy of the report to the following entities and gave them the option of providing a response:

- Premier and Minister for Veterans
- Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of TAFE Queensland
- chancellors and vice-chancellors of the 7 universities
- principals and chairs of the 8 grammar schools.

This appendix contains the responses we received.

The heads of these entities are responsible for the accuracy, fairness, and balance of their comments.

Comments received from Director-General, Department of Education



Office of the
Director-General

Department of
Education

2 JUN 2025

Ms Rachel Vagg
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
Email: gao@gao.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Vagg

Thank you for your email dated 13 May 2025 enclosing a copy of your proposed report *Education 2024* for review prior to tabling in Parliament planned for early June 2025. I note you also wrote to the Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts, about the same matter. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed report. I note the content of the report and that you have not made any new recommendations, however, draw our attention to recommendations from previous years that require further action. The Department of Education will assess and implement those recommendations specifically relevant to this agency.

In relation to the proposed report's Figure D1 Status of recommendations from *Education 2023* (Report 13: 2023–24) relevant to the department:

- Recommendation one *Strengthen information system controls (all entities)*: the department continues to monitor how it manages third party cyber security risks. The department notes that recommendation one relates to the current status of prior recommendation one (*Education 2020* (Report 18: 2020–21)).
- Recommendation two *Improve processes to capture and record ongoing building project costs that have not been paid for by the year-end date (capital accruals) (all entities)*: the department has appropriate processes in place and therefore no further action is required.
- Recommendation three for all education entities to *Assess employment agreements and historical pay practices to identify potential wage underpayments (all entities)*: no further action is required by the department as the risk of wage underpayments has been assessed including systems and practices.

The department acknowledges that there is also recommendation two that is open from the previous QAO report, *Education 2021* (Report 19: 2021–22), in relation to completing regular and timely assessments of the condition of assets. The department has completed its condition assessment program and is working with schools to develop schools' maintenance plans by December 2025.

The department's Audit and Risk Management Committee will monitor any required actions to address the relevant recommendations.

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2

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact [REDACTED]

Thank you for consulting with the department on this important piece of work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SSC', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SHARON SCHIMMING
Director-General

Ref: 25/444325



Comments received from Director-General, Department of Trade, Employment and Training



Department of
Trade, Employment and Training

Our ref: TF25/1166 D25/9771
Your ref: PRJ04156

Ms Rachel Vagg
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
Email: gao@gao.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Vagg *Rachel*

Thank you for your email dated 13 May 2025 regarding your proposed *Education 2024* report to parliament and for the opportunity to provide feedback.

I acknowledge the report and accept its findings, noting the report's focus on recommendations from previous years.

The findings related to information security continue to be a focus for the Department to ensure that our information systems are strengthened to avoid potential threats to our data and systems. As noted in the report, the Department has an action plan that addresses all recommendations and remains committed to business improvement across all our systems.

I confirm the report's observations that the Department has made significant progress on the findings related to asset management, specifically the regular asset condition assessments of buildings. In January 2025, a new Asset Condition Assessment Program commenced, with all sites to be assessed by the end of 2025. This program is being delivered in accordance with the *Queensland Government Building Policy Framework and Guidelines*.

As a result of the assessments, a four-year maintenance plan and a 10-year capital renewal plan will be delivered which will inform short- and long-term investment into the asset infrastructure.

The Department continues to work with TAFE Queensland and central agencies to consider strategies to support TAFE Queensland's financial sustainability. This includes implementation of a new funding framework that was developed as part of recent skills reforms.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the report.

Yours sincerely

Peter McKay
Peter McKay
Director-General
02.06.2025

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Comments received from Chief Executive Officer, TAFE Queensland



2 June 2025

Ms Rachel Vagg
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office Queensland
Email: AuditOffice@gao.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Vagg

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Queensland Audit Office 2024 Education Report to Parliament.

The report accurately describes TAFE Queensland's recent financial performance and the delivery of a financial surplus in the 2023–24 financial year, which saw TAFE Queensland service record student numbers mainly arising from the State and Federal Fee Free TAFE initiative.

As the report states, TAFE Queensland is continuing to work on longer term strategies, including alongside government, to better understand and influence its cost of services in order to stay financial sustainable and more resilient to changes in the Vocational Education and Training landscape.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the report.

Your sincerely

John Tucker
Chief Executive Officer
TAFE Queensland

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TAFE Queensland

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Page 1 of 1