

Response to Question on Notice received 1 June 2026

National Electrical and Communications Association

1. **Kent JOHNS:** ... We have enough people that want to become electricians. We do not have enough training spaces in Victoria – we are capped – and we do not have the capacity with the employers. So we really need to focus there, especially with mature-age apprentices, who are brilliant apprentices as well – and stop Parliament taking all our sparkies and plumbers.

...

Martha HAYLETT: Is the cap because of the spaces?

Kent JOHNS: No, it is a state government cap on places.

David HODGETT: On training.

Kent JOHNS: It revolves around – and correct me if I am wrong; I might take it on notice – there being a 75 per cent minimum for TAFE, and TAFE does not necessarily fill their cap, which leaves the residual cap for RTOs and GTOs.

Response:

The Victorian Government passed the Free TAFE Guarantee legislation, which legally requires that at least 70% of all government Vocational Education and Training (VET) funding goes directly to public TAFEs and dual-sector universities.

NECA has had it explained that we have our annual enrolments to our RTO capped at 500 as a result of that policy.

We note further that:

- We have now exhausted our allocation for this year, so we are now turning people away and compiling a waiting list.
- currently in the waiting list we have around 80 apprentices and we expect this number to approach 200 by year end which may further increase maybe based on increased data centre activity.
- The cap of 500 has nothing to do with our RTO capacity as we could accommodate 750 enrolments per year on an ongoing basis with our current set-up.