



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
HON. ASERI RADRODRO
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024

108/2024

WRITTEN QUESTION

Hon. Alipate Tuicolo to ask the Minister for Education –
Since the establishment of the Tertiary Scholarship and
Loans Service (TSLs) in 2023, can the Minister inform
Parliament on –

- (a) the number of students that have enrolled under the TSLs**
in the respective Higher Education institutions;
 - (b) the number of students enrolled under the TSLs that did**
not complete their studies in the respective Higher Education
institutions; and
 - (c) the number of students enrolled under the TSLs in each**
Higher Education institution that have been absorbed into the
workforce.
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The Coalition Government continues to recognise the significance of education at different levels from primary to tertiary-level education. Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) was established in 2014 with the core mandate to administer Government scholarships, grants and study loans.

TSLS plays a critical role as the major stakeholder for human capital development in the country by providing highly trained and competent workforce to sustain our economy.

(a) the number of students that have enrolled under the TSLS in the respective Higher Education institutions.

Since 2014, seventy thousand nine hundred and four students (70,904) students have been funded through scholarships, study loans, micro qualifications grants and apprenticeship scheme. This amounts to total financial investment of \$1.1 Billion.

A total of 68,700 students have been funded by TSLS through Scholarships, Study Loans and Grants at 19 local Tertiary Education Institutes (TEI's) and 18 Institutions in Australia and New Zealand.

In addition, 1,879 students have been assisted through Micro Qualification Grant and 325 students under Apprenticeship Scheme.

TSLS scholarships, Study Loans and Grants

The breakdown of the 68,700 students funded under scholarships, study loans and grants are:

Higher Education Institution	Number of Students
The University of the South Pacific	20,610
Fiji National University	30,226
University of Fiji	3,110
Corpus Christi Teachers College	358
Fulton Adventist University College	551
Sangam Institute of Nursing	1,223
Technical College of Fiji	10,857
Centre for Applied Technology Development	151
Keshals Business Education Institute	32
Pacific Polytechnic	1,194
Monfort Boys Town	15
Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute	10
Service Pro	10
SPA Academy Fiji	14
Pivot Point	57
Vishan Infotech	56
Advance Aviation Training (Fiji) Limited	36
Pacific Flying School	36
Auckland University of Technology	5
Massey University	6

The University of Auckland	5
Monash University	14
Queensland University of Technology	2
University of Newcastle	10
University of New South Wales	9
Swinburne University of Technology	4
University of Sydney	2
Western Sydney University	12
University of Waikato	3
University of Canterbury	1
Victoria University of Wellington	5
University of Canberra	1
Macquarie University	2
Royal Melbourne Institution Of Technology	1
The University of Queensland	4
University of Technology Sydney	1
Overseas Donor Funded	67
Total	68,700

Micro Qualifications Grant

A total of 1,879 students have been assisted with Micro Qualifications Grant at the following Tertiary Education Institutes:

Tertiary Education Institute	Number of Students
Pacific Polytechnic	1332
Service Pro	53
Fiji National University	69
Waidina College	41
Nasesevia Secondary School	19
VISHAN INFOTECH	125
CATD	163
Drasa Secondary Vocational Centre	6
Keshals Business Education Institute	6
Makoi Womens Vocational Training	4
Tavua College Vocational Centre	5
Levuka Public School	6
Nadarivatu High School	10
Naitasiri Secondary School	40
Total	1879

Incentive Apprenticeship Scheme

The 325 students who are assisted under Incentive Apprenticeship Scheme are with the following Employers:

Employer	Number of Students
Lincoln Refrigeration Pte Ltd	4
Energy Fiji Ltd	107
Matec Motors	1
Asco Motors	5
Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited	103
Shreedhar Motors	1
Altitude Refrigerations Solutions	3
Aquaheat South Pacific	18
Ba Industries Limited	2
Vatukoula Goldmines Limited	14
Nation Electric	1
Niranjans Autoport Ltd	7
Carpenters Fiji Ltd	15
Kooltech Refrigeration	1
Compressed Air & Pneumatic Services	1
Wormald Fire & Security	4
Mechanical Services	6
Goodman Fielder	13
Tropic Woods	11
Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd	3

Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa	3
Future Farms Pte Ltd T/A rooster Poultry	2
Total	325

(b) the number of students enrolled under the TSLs that did not complete their studies in the respective Higher Education institutions.

From 2014 to 2023 there were 21,685 students who have either absconded, are inactive or are yet to graduate and their Bond term has expired. This equates to approximately \$160 million dollars of Investment.

The breakdown by Institution cannot be released as it will cause reputational damage to the Tertiary Education Institutions. However, the institutions have the information on probation, suspension and non-completion.

Students were provided with a TELS loan from 2014 to 2019 with very low marks to do degree programmes which contributed to such high non-completion. The Technical Colleges also attributed to the non-completion figures.

The Fijian Parliament has approved amendments to the TSLs Act to obtain academically 'at risk' student information. The information is to be used to subsequently prepare remedial plans for their tertiary education institutions to early detect and provide scaffolding support to reduce the non-completion rate.

(c) the final question is: the number of students enrolled under the TSLS in each Higher Education institution that have been absorbed into the workforce.

The Higher Education Commission Fiji (HECF) and Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) have no legal mandate to collect employment records of the graduates. Due to this there are no records on where the graduates who benefited from Government funding are employed.

However , with amendments to the TSLS Act, Bill No. 16 of 2024 and Act No. 12 of 2024, TSLS now has the mandate to collect student employment record.

Section 17A of TSLS Act requires “A student or former student who is employed or self-employed, must provide the Service with his or her employment record”.

All TSLS funded students are now obligated to submit the employment record to TSLS within 6 months of being employed or self-employed and any other time as directed by TSLS.

With this requirement, it will not only allow TSLS to keep track of where students are employed but also assist in bond clearance process and national planning.

TSLs will strengthen the policies, regulations and the Act to ensure transparent and accountable management of government funding to maximize return from taxpayer investment in education.