

Question on notice response

Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions – 29 May 2026

On 15 May 2026, at the public hearing for the Victorian Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee's inquiry into enhancing university governance, the Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions was asked how many multicultural members have been appointed by the government to university councils in recent history.

The Department advises that, when new members are appointed to university councils by the Minister or Governor in Council, they are invited to disclose whether they are from a 'culturally, religiously or linguistically diverse background' as part of the personal information and consent form they complete alongside the Declaration of Private Interests.

Based on this self-disclosure, the Department advises that 10 of the 32 current Ministerial and Governor in Council appointees to university councils (31%) have self-identified as coming from a culturally, religiously or linguistically diverse background.

The Department would also like to provide the following clarification to the evidence provided to the Committee at the hearing regarding the authority to remove a council member.

The Department would like to advise the Committee that, in addition to the general rule that it is the council that can remove council members, section 12(5) of the establishing Acts of each of Victoria's 8 public universities also provides the ability for government-appointed members to be removed at any time, by the person who appointed them.

A member could be removed by the Minister for Skills and TAFE if the member was appointed by the Minister or by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Skills and TAFE if the member was appointed by the Governor in Council.

The relevant decision-maker would need to afford procedural fairness to a member proposed to be removed.