



Investing in Community Education and Training

Outcomes for organisations and students

26 July 2017

Investing in Community Education and Training (ICET)

The ICET was a \$100 million Federal Government infrastructure fund, announced by then Education Minister Julia Gillard on 20 May 2009.

It was part of the Labor Government's \$500 million Teaching and Learning Capital Fund for Vocational Education and Training.

The ICET "...recognise[d] the unique value of community education and training and its role in providing thousands of Australians with pathways into further education and training or employment".

The ICET was the first major capital investment directly into the community education sector by the Australian Government.

Investing in Community Education and Training (ICET)

\$100 million in funding was available to eligible providers to upgrade infrastructure, plant and equipment to maximise community education and training delivery, and was available in two pools:

- small capital grants (\$50,000 to \$250,000 GST exclusive) to assist with minor construction, refurbishment and the purchase of equipment; and
- larger grants (\$250,000 to \$1.5 million GST exclusive) for major capital infrastructure developments or upgrades.

The Survey

In partnership with Community Colleges Australia, Per Capita conducted a survey of 25 CCA member organisations who had been recipients of funding in 2009/2010 under the ICET.

Seven respondents received funding from the small capital grants category, and the other 18 received a larger grant.

In the small grant category, recipients received an average of \$129,000.

In the large grants category, recipients received an average of \$972,723.

The smallest grant was \$39,000 and the largest was \$1.66Million.

Outcomes - facilities

- 56% of recipients upgraded their existing facilities
- 20% built new facilities
- 24% both upgraded existing facilities and built new ones

Outcomes - courses

- 76% of recipients were able to offer new courses as a direct result of ICET funding
- Of these new courses, around 2/3 were vocational, providing new skills and pathways into employment
- 96% (24 of 25) improved their existing courses

Outcomes – student numbers

- 92% of recipients provided training to more students as a direct result of ICET funding
- Best estimate is that more than 100,000 new students undertook training in community education institutions over the last seven years as a direct result of ICET funding

Outcomes – staff

- 84% of recipients were able to improve staff outcomes as a direct result of ICET funding
- 20% hired new staff
- 12% improved the skills of existing staff
- 52% both improved existing staff's skills and hired new staff

Outcomes - accessibility

- 80% of recipients improved accessibility to their educational facilities for staff and students living with disabilities

How are they doing now?

We asked survey respondents how they were faring seven years after the ICET.

None said that they were doing *very well*, with a substantial operating surplus.

16 respondents reported that they were doing *moderately well*, and are able to provide sufficient courses and facilities to meet the needs of the local community and ensure staff are properly resourced.

6 said they were *just managing* – they have no operating surplus, but are able to provide sufficient facilities and ensure staff are properly resourced.

1 reported that they were *slipping* - only able to provide basic courses and facilities. These respondents said they would like to offer additional courses but are unable to do so due to lack of funds

1 said they were *falling behind* – they have had to cut courses and/or reduce student numbers and/or lay off staff to maintain viability in the last two years.

One respondent declined to answer this question.