

1. Please explain the concept of 'education' in contrast to 'training' and indicate
 - a. Why is it, in your experience, important for the student and for society
 - b. Does Smart and Skilled for a particular qualification provide funding for education that is not directly necessary to achieve training outcomes?
If not, please explain what the implications are for
 - I. TAFE, and
 - II. private for-profit providers

Responses from Dave Carey (PTCT – North Coast Institute of TAFE)

1. My idea of the difference between education and training is along these lines. Education relates to all aspects of learning required by an individual to participate positively in society. They would include foundation skills, including literacy, numeracy, communication and other life skills. Training relates to achieving competence at a particular skill or skill set that will allow a person to carry out a role or task.
 - (a) Education is important because it provides many foundation skills in general aspects of life, including ongoing higher education and training. It's important to the student because it enables them to participate in society and progress to new levels. Across the board, successful education in our society is important because, it sets minimum standards of foundation skills, morals and attitudes which are regarded as ideal for our living/social environment.
 - (b) No, I see Smart & skilled providing funding for the provision of training in a required skill set, which has been determined through the development of training packages. If a student is lacking in a foundation skill that is required to achieve competence in a unit of competence, the provision of the education to complete this gap is provided through discretionary funding of North Coast Institute of TAFE Learner Support programs.
 - (i) The implications for NC TAFE follow this process: S&S fund RTO's by progressive payments, based on the success of students completing units of competence. If a student is faltering in their progress because they lack some basic foundation skill, NC TAFE is obliged to provide extra education, to assist student complete units. NC TAFE has to provide funding to give these students the best chance of course completing, and then the final S&S funds will be paid.

The progressive payment system sets a high risk for NC TAFE. A quality & efficient delivery program is designed, including some Learner Support, and when implemented will have a cost associated with it. These funds are expended as the program is delivered, but the reimbursement of all these funds relies on all participating students, completing the course. Relying on 100% completion is unreal. The implication of this is to further risk manage the delivery – reduce delivery hours, use less face to face learning methods, and cuts to learner support funding.
 - (ii) Possible implications for other RTO: private—for profit could include:
 - Don't provide any learner support to assist student reach acceptable levels of foundation skills required.
 - Select and deliver courses that require the minimal level of resources, and can be delivered by the cheapest (But not the ideal) delivery mode.