

# **INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

## **Questions on notice**

Newcastle Hearing – Friday 18 September 2015

**Dr John Kaye to ask Mr Mark Powell, Teacher-Commercial Cookery, Hunter Institute**

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?

New South Wales TAFE is the cornerstone to our society providing quality training and education to adults so that they can participate and have a fulfilled life's.

My experience with the current NSW TAFE system is that the government has a plan to destroy TAFE and in turn this has resulted in high unemployment in NSW and a huge reduction in the opportunities for those people who need TAFE the most.

- b. Does Smart and Skilled or a particular qualification provide funding for education that is not directly necessary to achieve training outcomes?

The introduction of Smart and Skill has seen a huge reduction in both courses being available and students having the access to extra funds to pay for their training. To putting a cost on education is a direct attack on how TAFE has worked since 1975. The students are now called customers. TAFE is now under industry and not education. There has been no value placed on adult education by the current government.

- If not, please explain what the implications are for
1. TAFE, and

TAFE students were very happy with the support they receive during their courses. Now with the cutting of support staff and disability experts both students and teaching staff are at breaking point with the extra stress for Smart and Skilled.

Our teaching section has strong relationship with the industry which has been a huge strength to our teaching section.

Our teaching section has had leakage of industry experts and this is impact on our relationship with the industry.

2. private for-profit providers

The biggest impact to my experience is that my colleagues and I have been worried out our futures and the futures of our students since 2011.

We have seen first handed students that have studied with a private RTO but cannot receive RPL for units completed.

2. How many teachers in your section have lost their positions as a result of restructuring or other changes since 2011? Please specify permanent full time equivalent positions and/or part time casual staff.

A. How many were there before the restructuring began?

Before the cuts/2011 there were two departments for cooking at Hamilton campus.

Commercial Cookery for apprentices and Commercial Catering was for non-trade/unemployed, disabilities and international students.

Both cookery section provided training in Certificate III in Commercial Cookery. Non Trade was over one year at three days per week and trade was 1 day per week over 2 years.

Commercial Catering section was closed.

Four full time teachers were sacked. University educated industry expert now gone for good.

Commercial Cookery section saw full teachers reduced from six to four.

There are also currently seven Part- Time teachers still employed.

Our training for both non-trade and trade courses was meeting the growing needs of the Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Central Coast and Port Stephens but now there is massive skill shortages in all areas of hospitality.

The cuts to courses has had a huge impact on both students opportunities and employers needs for a highly skilled work place.