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### **QUESTION ON NOTICE (as per the transcript)**

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE:** Can't your children attend the TAFE that is delivering the course?

**Ms PASAS:** We are not allowed to do TVET courses.

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE:** What prevents you?

**Ms PASAS:** If you want a specific—

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE:** If you do not know the answer, please take it on notice?

**Ms PASAS:** I will try to take it on notice.

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE:** It is not a trick question. I am actually very interested in some of the barriers to the learning experience.

**Ms PASAS:** I would like to take that question on notice.

### **Response**

On 16 September, 2014, I sent an email to TAFE asking how my 16 year old son would go about applying for a TVET course. The following day, I received a reply from TAFE stating that they would contact BoSTES about my query. This email came from \_\_\_\_\_ whose title is TVET Coordinator, Senior Pathways, NSW Department of Education and Communities.

On 17 September, 2014, I contacted the home schooling unit within the BoSTES to ask how a home educated child could access TVET. \_\_\_\_\_ responded to this query by stating that TVET courses can constitute a part of the education programme of the child. In order to access the actual course, I would need to contact TAFE as they are responsible for administrating TVET courses.

On 23 September, 2014, I spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ who advised that BoSTES had not been in touch with her in relation to how a home educated child can access TAFE. I said that the home schooling unit has stated that it is TAFE that should have the policy for accessing TVET. BoSTES merely approves the course as part of the education programme.

\_\_\_\_\_ then said that I would need to contact the individual TAFE institutions.

On 23 September, 2014, I contacted [redacted] from the St George TAFE. She advised that home educated children can access TAFE but require a code. There is a different code for the public schools and a different code for the private schools. She was not aware of the code for home educated children but would contact the TVET unit within BoSTES to find out that code and then get in touch with me again.

Having not received a response from [redacted], I contacted her again on 1 October, 2014. She advised that she was given the code for home educated children to use in order to access TVET courses. Home educated children pay to participate in the TVET course as do non-public school students.

I would like to apologise to the Committee for stating before the Inquiry that home educating students could not access TVET courses. I believed this statement to be true at the time I made that statement. I would also like to state that it was very difficult and time consuming to find out how a home educated child could access TVET. I respectfully submit that the reason home educators feel their children are unable to access TVET is that after making many phone calls and being directed to various departments they give up and assume their child cannot access TVET.

**Recommendation 1** : That TAFE or TVET develop a specific policy that shows the pathway for a home educated child to be able to access to TVET.

**Recommendation 2** : That the above policy be included in the home schooling registration package so families are aware of this option.

I hope this satisfies your inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Velly Pasas

Vice-President

Sydney Home Education Network