

Document tendered by

Mr Dave Carey

Received by

L Hall

Date: 11/9/15

Resolved to publish Yes / No

Introduction to the General purpose standing committee no. 6

11.9.2015

From Dave Carey

5

I am a part-time casual teacher working for North Coast TAFE for over 20 years, teaching in the fields of science, sustainability and laboratory operations, at campuses across the far north coast region.

This introduction is a brief summary of issues, my colleagues and I have observed, which relate to the terms of reference. I would be happy to answer questions and provide details to any points of interest, in the following question time.

The first issue identified is that some students are been disadvantaged by the high fees they have to pay. TAFE has for a long time been the 2nd chance education for many people. When a person is told, that for them to retrain in a new field, to get a better job, the fee will be over \$8000 – their usual response is – no chance. This is happening on a regular basis. We are missing out on a motivated and capable cohort of mature aged students.

The second issue is the threat to the quality of course delivery. The new funding model is putting course delivery under pressure and quality of the education is likely to diminish. When a teaching section has to risk manage running a course by reducing the delivery to 60% of the normal delivery hours, then the delivery, will not be as good as it has been in the past.

The next issue is the demoralising effect this has on teaching staff. The constant changes introduced are all to do with doing more and getting paid less. When directed to teach a unit in a manner/time that is not in the best interest of the student cohort, puts ones professionalism in jeopardy. If TAFE loses qualified and experienced teachers, they will be difficult to replace in this existing environment.

And now what about the employers: They are frustrated. They no longer have a pool of motivated well trained qualified persons, keen to take on job offers. I often get employers contact me when they want new employees. We have been providing them with trained workers for years. When they can't find what they want from TAFE, it affects our reputation as the lead training provider (In many areas – the only training provider)

Following from these issues: This could lead to diminishing ability for a teaching section to exist. They have fewer students, they get less funds, the reputation of a quality education has been tarnished, they would no longer have the best staff available and so eventually they shut the section down, get rid of all the resources and that option for students no longer exist. Students and Employers are left high and dry and skilled workforce is reduced.

Some changes need to be made... soon!

- Reduce fees for students who want to retrain, upskill or return to work.
- Change funding model to RTOs so that realistic and quality planned delivery can be provided to all students for the duration of the course.
- Keep incentives in place that preserve the quality of the staff required to continue TAFE as a lead training provider.