

# Response to Questions on Notice from:

## GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 6

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

*Compiled by Mr Graham Armstrong Head Teacher Automotive Trades Wollongbar Campus*

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1. **Have you had any feedback that Certificate II is not working for businesses and they are saying that students with this level are not work-ready?**

In my area of vocation, the Certificate II qualifications were widely endorsed by industry and filled a gap that existed between specific job roles and that of a fully qualified automotive technician. An example would be a tyre supply and fitting establishment compared to a full automotive repair shop. A Certificate II in tyre fitting really suited that job role and workplace, eliminating the need to try and obtain a full Certificate III qualification in a workplace that in a lot of cases couldn't fulfil the requirements of the training package.

Recently, the Department of Fair Trading released legislation that a minimum of a Certificate III qualification would be required to obtain a repairers licence within any stream of our industry. So, from my view point, the Certificate II qualification has lost a lot of appeal and in particular, for traineeships.

I do believe though that the Certificate II qualifications are still necessary to create and facilitate a learning pathway into industries.

2. **The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I was interested in what Mr Armstrong suggested needs to be addressed in terms of pre-vocational. Can you suggest where we can get more information about that?**

In my opinion there should be a lot of focus and adequate funding at the pre vocational stage. I feel if we can get this area of training right the overall completion rates for Apprentices would improve significantly. The Pre Vocational stage is one of the best stages to identify that the right people are in the right vocation. There, of course, needs to be strong links to industry to establish what parameters are required from a new entrant into their business.

State Training Services has recently released part qualification and pre vocational funding which I think has been long overdue and a distinct area that was forgotten in the implementation of Smart and Skilled. The recent announcement of fee free part qualifications from State Training Services has really opened the doors in this area. Fantastic news.