

**Submission
No 274**

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

Name: Mr John O'Neil

Date received: 29/09/2015

John O' Neill
3 Dalrymple Street
Jewells 2280
New South Wales
Australia
22/09/2015
Mobile 0414611549

On the 24 Sept 2009 I was informed to give up work for the present due to Genetic Family Kidney Disease.

Started Dialysis on 20 Nov 2009 Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesday afternoon Shift, 5 Hours per day.

It is a shock to start dialysis as it takes a while to get over it and get used to it.

To keep up with my Career I decided to do some Serious Study to make me Job Ready in the case I would receive a donor kidney and become well enough to take on full time work in the shipping industry, the area of my original and lifetime career.

In 2011 I attended TAFE Newcastle and attained my Certificate 2 in Transport and Distribution (Coastal Maritime Operations – Coxswain 19th December 2011)
As I came from a Sea Going Background this was a way of still keeping up and in with my career.

This course pointed out to me that I would need to learn Computer Skills which I did not have at that time.

As I lived in JEWELLS it was recommended to get in touch with BELMONT TAFE which is our Local Area Teaching Institute.

After doing an Educational Review and Test it was recommended that I do Certificate 1 in Access to Work and Training the equivalent to foundation to the old School Certificate. There were a lot of areas that I had lacked knowledge and depth and as I had not obtained any school qualifications from my Secondary Education, and at the same time I would be Introduced to Computers which I had to learn.

Received Certificate 1 Access to Work and Training 4th July 2012 from BELMONT TAFE

I continue with my studies which were needed to come up to a Higher Level and continued with a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training which was the equivalent to the year 10 school certificate level.

During this course we wrote stories of our own which were published in book form which made us authors. My book with stories was published Dec 2012 BELMONT TAFE

I received the Certificate 11 in Skills for Work and Training on the 17th December 2012 from BELMONT TAFE.

Certificate of Achievement Digital Media Class from BELMONT TAFE

My next step was to progress to Certificate III in Preparation for Vocational Further Study which was the equivalent to the start of the Higher School Certificate. I started on Feb 2013 at BELMONT TAFE.

I started this course and did quite well, but due to health complications due to a lack of kidneys, I had to withdraw from the remainder of the course.

I received Certificate 91471 NSW Course in Language Literacy and Numeracy for work completed on 3rd July 2013 BELMONT TAFE.

In January 2014 I now had enough knowledge to start an advanced computer course and be able to hold my own. It had taken two years to get to this stage.

I enrolled in Certificate 1 in Information Digital Media and Technology ICA10111 BELMONT TAFE

Received Certificate 1 in Information Digital Media and Technology ICA10111 2nd July 2014 BELMONT TAFE.

As I was waiting for a kidney transplant I also was thinking of going into computers as a new career move and at a higher level. I felt that these skills would be ideal for any office jobs in the shipping industry.

Enrolled in Certificate II in Business at BELMONT TAFE July 2014

Received Certificate in Business BSB20112 BELMONT TAFE 7th August 2015

I decided to continue on with my studies to enhance my job prospects in the field of computers.

Enrolled in BSB30415Ri - 01V01 Certificate III in Business Administration Aug 2015 TAFE BELMONT.

BELMONT TAFE is my local education service provider. Any move to close this establishment down could have a great impact in a negative way on my future as well as the future of those younger than myself who will need to travel further to other colleges with the lack of public transport.

Doing my courses at TAFE meant that it was affordable at the time and that TAFE is well known amongst previous employers I had worked for in the shipping industry. Attending TAFE and attaining qualifications has given me hope to take my mind off the health situation I am in and prepares me to be job ready, hopefully when I receive a donor kidney. I have been waiting for seven years so far.

Yours Sincerely

JOHN JAMES O' NEILL