

**Submission  
No 29**

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

**Name:** Professor Prue Vines

**Date received:** 27/06/2015

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Dear Committee,

I write as a person who has taught at TAFE (although no longer) and who has had relatives go to TAFE. TAFE has been an incredibly useful place for people who have little money for education or who have not done well in school education. The opportunity for low cost education to do vocational training has been invaluable to members of my family who are not suited to university education. Unfortunately, however, recently a relative of mine who intended to go to TAFE to finish a course he had already partially completed was told that the fees to continue were approximately three times what he had paid in the past. He cannot pay those fees and he has not completed that Diploma. TAFE has been starved of funds for years. Students without great resources simply cannot afford it any more. This is an indictment of our education system. The private sector will only follow the market; they won't lead the market and they won't necessarily see what is needed in the future. Our apprentices are losing valuable education because of loss of subsidies. This really needs to be turned around so that our own young people, ( and older people needing retraining after job loss ) can have the opportunities they are hungry for.

Yours sincerely,

Prue Vines