

**Submission
No 175**

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

Name: Ms Wendy White

Date received: 7/08/2015

I am a retired high school teacher and have for years admired the important contribution TAFE has made in providing continuing education for all, particularly to disadvantaged students, students with special needs, and Aboriginal students. Support for these students has been decimated and with the at loss of support the proud boast that TAFE provides education for all. In addition many of the students I have taught in secondary school have not achieved their full potential until they have become motivated by a vocational course at TAFE. I might add that many of those students would find the present increase in fees difficult for them to access this important chance of tertiary education

As I live in a rural area I am aware of the loss of courses due to the closure of small colleges and TAFE annexes. This will result in a loss of ability to access further education for many rural students whic, in turn, will impact adversely on the economic future fo regional NSW and add to the high levels of youth unemployment.

TAFE is being forced to compete against training companies that exploit students and offer substandard qualifications. This and the cutting of funding has resulted in the loss of 2,600 teaching and support staff jobs since 2011 and more than 83,000 fewer students this year from 2012 levels. Our TAFE system was once the envy of many other countries but the direction it is being forced to follow and the lack of proper funding will destroy a system notable for its equity and further diminish the skills our country is reliant upon.

The 2600 staff positions should be restored, government Vocational Education and Training (VET) budget of 85% for each course should be guaranteed and there should be an end to a narrowing of the focus of TAFE into profitability.

Wendy White