INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Saving TAFE by limiting the market rip-off: Under Smart and Skilled, each year the NSW government decides how much of its Vocational Education and Training (VET) budget is taken from TAFE and put into the contestable market where the public system has to compete with low-cost, low-quality private providers. The Greens have estimated that in 2015/16, 27% of TAFE NSW's secure budget will disappear but in Victoria 80% of VET funds are contestable. The prospect of NSW following the Victorian model is inflicting massive damage on TAFE. The Committee should be told that that TAFE should be guaranteed that its share of VET funds will never decline. The Greens say that TAFE should have secure access to 85% of funding for any one course code, rising to 100% where TAFE can provide all of the training without private sector involvement. For-profit and new corporations should be banned from receiving public funds.