

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

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My son was considered rather backward at school. He had a problem reading and I was rather depressed about his future. As a single income family (my income and I'm a female) we didn't have a lot of money for extra study although I had spent some \$\$ at a coaching college to try to teach him to read and be better at maths. It had limited success.

As a result of TAFE attendance, he is now a very successful individual (an arborist) and very keen to learn. He just needed the right path. I was grateful that he was guided by people who worked in the field and were enthusiastic and realistic about the job.

If the cost of courses was higher, he would not have attended TAFE. Any job he could have got would not have paid enough for him to save money to pay for a course. This is one person who is unlikely to be calling on unemployment benefits.

One of our neighbours lets rooms to people. One of the tenants teaches at a private college. I try to help her with her lessons (mostly about teaching people how to apply for a job). She regards the teacher quality at this private college to be very low standard and is of the opinion that the people running the college are just out to make money. They pay the trainers as little as possible (similar to a checkout person at Coles where she has to work on weekends). Presumably they pay so little because the college principles don't value the teaching staff.

Please put as much money into TAFE as is needed. It is our one saving grace for education. I'm sure there's more underemployed graduates than TAFE graduates.