

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

The current funding for apprentice electricians under Smart and Skilled is \$13,180 per apprentice. This amount was determined by IPART after extensive consultation with industry.

Unfortunately the amount that reaches an Electrical Teaching Section is around \$8000 once funds are scooped off the top to pay for the day to day running costs of a TAFE Institute.

This reduction in funds to the teaching section has resulted in a need to reduce delivery hours to meet budget.

Qualification UEE30811 - Electrotechnology Electrician is delivered in 1020 hours in other states of Australia.

TAFE NSW has traditionally delivered the qualification in 864 hours.

In 2015, our teaching section was directed by Institute management to reduce delivery to 720 hours.

This has had a detrimental effect on student learning, and has also increased the workload of teachers.

Industry has indicated that it is very unhappy with the reduced course hours and is concerned about the safety factor of having electricians who are inadequately trained.

Students are now being expected to learn more in less time, with the greatest impact being a reduced amount of time on campus for Skill Practice. This has resulted in the number of students failing assessment tasks on their first attempt to increase.

In addition, the government used to provide TAFE with funding to allow students to repeat failed units. Students must now pay a commercial fee to repeat a unit. This can be up to \$1620 for each unit of competence.

Core recurrent funding must be provided to allow TAFE Institutes to continue to operate as the public provider of vocational education and training in NSW, something it has done so well for over a century.

Only then will teaching sections receive the full amount of Smart and Skilled funding as determined by IPART.