

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

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The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6  
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### **Re Inquiry into Vocational Education & Training in NSW**

I apologise for the delay in my submission regarding the impacts of *Smart and Skilled* on TAFE and vocational education. I request that my submission below may be accepted.

I am considerably distressed over what appears as 'never-ending' savage cuts to the provision of high quality public vocational education and training (VET) through TAFE that has intensified over recent years.

My major concern is for students who need a 'second chance' for education. TAFE is of critical importance for young people who may not have been able to succeed in their primary and high school for many reasons - disadvantage, poverty, disability. What concerns me most is that unless TAFE is supported then we will deny generations of young people to quality and affordability of vocational education.

The NSW Government's *Smart and Skilled* is a seriously flawed policy that undermines TAFE as the pre-eminent provider of VET. It needs to be reversed.

It is incredibly distressing to hear of many TAFE Institutes across NSW have had their whole teaching/learning sections deleted, courses cut and the delivery hours reduced with hundreds of teachers losing their jobs.

It is a tragedy that the NSW Government is so willing to hand over VET provision to private providers, whose primary purpose is profit rather than educational provision.

I call on the NSW Government to:

1. to publically defend TAFE as the pre-eminent provider of VET
2. acknowledge and rescinds *Smart and Skilled* as a failed policy
3. restore TAFE as the preeminent provider of post secondary education and places a cap on contestable vocational education & training funding for private providers.

Yours sincerely

Janine Kitson