

Submission
No 171

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Enquiry into Vocational Education and Training
Public Submissions

Positive Experiences at TAFE:

TAFE has given me the education and training over 23 years which has assisted me with obtaining jobs in the Administration Area then leading me into "Teaching Business Administration". I have studied at TAFE since I was 16 years until my last course studied was in 2014. Because I have updated my skills with TAFE it has ensured I have kept employment for 23 years. I have never being unemployed which is a result of updating my qualifications every 4 years or so. If we have studied previously we will NOW be penalised financially if we wish to further study.

TAFE has always been the alternative to further education when your intentions are not to attend University. TAFE has given me the opportunity to gain and **keep** employment for 25 years.

Every person I am acquainted with has at **some time in their life, completed a TAFE qualification**, which has assisted them with obtaining employment. Most of the time industry changes so much that people need to RETURN to TAFE to update their skills. Or they are wanting to change jobs and gain NEW skills in a different vocation to their current one! Due to illness, dismissed in current role.

People are being penalised for previously studying at TAFE as it is now UNAFFORDABLE for the average Australian.

Key Points:

- **Prices unaffordable** eg a **Certificate II in Business course has gone from \$267 to \$1,200** for people who have studied a Higher qualification in a different vocation or for people without concessions.
- **Cert III in Business course has gone from \$419 – 1,310 or 1,570 or 2,100** if a higher qualification has been studied before.
- **Current Example:** I know of a student who is 19 years of age still living at home, who has just finished his HSC and wants to further his studies and skills but not at University level. So he is completing **Cert II in Business for \$870**. He then wants to continue his studies into **Cert III in Business where it will cost him approx. \$1,570 to 2,100**. He is living at home however his parents are not in a position to help him financially so he is paying this amount himself working two jobs! That's a total of **\$2440.00 for a level II and III course! This amount is way too much for a young school leaver to have to pay on their own.**
- If this student wants to further his studies in the future he will have to pay full prices for these courses as he has already studied at level II and Level III. If he chooses down the track to gain skills in Retail or Welfare etc he will have to pay higher prices!
- If a student has **EVER studied a Cert IV or Diploma** years ago they **will NOT ever** be able to study a lower level course with a subsidy rate!?

I thought we wanted to have Australian people with current skills and up to date training, with this NEW system you will never be able to UPDATE your skills or choose to further your skills in a different vocation as it is unaffordable. **For example:** A nurse cannot physically work as a nurse anymore, so he/she decides to TRAIN in administration to change vocations? If they have **completed a Cert III or above** in Nursing, they will have to pay the full amount for the new course, so they probably will not be able to study.

Australia will end up being a Nation of **Under Skilled - Uneducated workers** as they are not given the **opportunity to change, update or further** their studies due to the Prices for TAFE and other RTO's.

We should be **ENCOURAGING** education and training – NOT making it **unaffordable** for the average Australian.

Studying allows the average Australian to better them self, it allows unemployed people to gain new skills especially essential workplace skills such as: being able to attend class on time (punctual) complete work tasks, complete assessments, meet deadlines. If we allow people to just stay at home, not work, and not being able to afford to study will ensure that we have a skills shortage in Australia.

Course content has been CUT dramatically over the last few years in all TAFE courses. A Cert II course used to run over 5 days for 6 months. It is now being run 3 days over 9 weeks. That alone should demonstrate that skills shortage will be a problem in the future. Now we have not only cut the content out of the courses – but we have made the courses UNAFFORDABLE!

The government also expect that people should be studying at a higher level such as Cert 4 or Diploma level? This is so not the case, most people have to start somewhere and if they have never studied before, or it is a new vocation altogether, Level II is essential for people to gain basic skills to then complete a higher qualification. We should be working from 1 to 5 not 5 to 1?

People need basic computer skills before tackling an on-line course which are totally computer based. They pay for a course they cannot complete as they do not have the basic skills to navigate the computer, however thought they will skip to the top as there are no “pre-requisites” for most courses!

It should be a progression for learning skills, however this new costing is setting people up for failure, and they want to do a lower qualification however due to the cost they jump straight into a higher level which they **then fail due to having low skills**. It’s like staring at the top of the ladder working your way down?! Should we not be working from the bottom up so we learn all there is to know about that industry?!

We live in regional Australia (Port Macquarie), would we not rather our unemployed (young and older) Australians to **STUDY** rather than sitting at home on New Start doing absolutely nothing gaining no new skills or training?

STOP TAFE CUTS! – this NEW process and COSTING will be detrimental in future for all Australians.

Signed: Resident of Port Macquarie – (employed for 28 years).