

**Submission
No 131**

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

Name: Mr Jack Galvin Waight

Date received: 11/08/2015

I am extremely concerned about the cuts and changes to our wonderful TAFE system. Smart and Skilled is destroying TAFE and damaging our nations prosperity.

These changes are incredibly short sighted as we currently have a skills shortage and the public money paid to substandard private providers will only hurt our nation, our students, our great TAFE teachers, our schools and our society.

The increase in fees is particularly concerning for our students, especially those from low socio economic areas. For example TAFE provides quality education for all, including working class Australians, second-chance learners and disadvantaged and social needs students by celebrating diverse learning styles and exceptional commitment to individual students.

In the Hunter and around the state, the slashing of staff numbers, courses, contact hours, and support services for people with special needs and outreach (access and equity) is having a particularly detrimental effect to these local communities. These cuts are impacting life's not to mention the loss of confidence in the future.

Our TAFE system used to be the envy of the world and one of the reasons why we are such a prosperous the nation. It is imperative that these cuts are reversed, smart and skilled replaced and TAFE allowed to continue to do the great job it has done in providing the skills for our nations future.