

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 29/06/2015

Partially Confidential

As an Australian citizen living in rural NSW I wish to voice my concern over the current changes to the VET providers under the implementation of smart and skilled. The NSW state government is intentionally destroying TAFE, shame shame shame on you. I will never vote for the national/liberal party. You have increased the gap in education between the poor and the rich. People in my area cannot afford courses, this is leading to dumbing down our societies, communities and encouraging a culture of unemployment. TAFE has changed peoples lives, yes it may be a business but you cannot put a cost to benefits of having people skilled, employed, gaining confidence and becoming better role models for their children. During the past week I met a lady who teaches for a private RTO's and Job service agencies in my community. She teaches, cert III in hospitality, beauty, community services, disability and customer service. The duration of the courses are short, in fact weeks. What a super woman? As a government you have inadvertently encouraged this type of behavior from RTO's. Perhaps the easiest way of stopping many of the worst training providers is to change access to student loans for fees. We don't allow anyone to hang up a shingle and call themselves a doctor and access Medicare. We should not allow training providers to do this either. By mandating minimum qualifications for teachers, minimum contact and student hours and course lengths you would break the business model of many of the worst training rent seekers. I beg you to reverse the funding to TAFE, this will save money by getting rid of the tripled administration layer that teachers now have to do under smart and skilled. Let teachers focus our effort on teaching. Allow students who cannot read and write to learn this for free. Keep TAFE, as a duty of care the government has an obligation to support public adult education and benefits it brings as one of the healthiest nations.